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Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba

Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

In its resolution 66/6, entitled "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba", the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with the appropriate organs and agencies of the United Nations system, to prepare a report on the implementation of the resolution in the light of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law and to submit it to the Assembly at its sixty-sixth session.

The present report reproduces the replies of Governments and bodies of the United Nations system to the request of the Secretary-General for information on the matter.

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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 66/6, entitled "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba", the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with the appropriate organs and agencies of the United Nations system, to prepare a report on the implementation of the resolution in the light of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law and to submit it to the Assembly at its sixty-seventh session.

2. Pursuant to that request, in a note verbale dated 2 April 2012, the Secretary-General invited Governments and organs and agencies of the United Nations system to provide him with any information they might wish to contribute to the preparation of his report. A further note verbale was sent on 31 May 2012.

3. The present report reproduces the replies from Governments and organs and agencies of the United Nations that had been received as at 9 July 2012. Replies received after that date will be reproduced as addenda to the present report.

II. Replies received from Governments

Algeria

[Original: French]
[31 May 2012]

Algeria recalls the relevant United Nations General Assembly resolutions concerning the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo that has been imposed by the United States of America against Cuba for more than 50 years, and once again expresses its deep concern at the continuation of that unilateral measure, which it considers to be in contravention of the principles of international law that are enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and, in particular, the principles of the sovereign equality of States and non-intervention in internal affairs. That embargo, which is extraterritorial and coercive in nature, conflicts with the basic principles of the multilateral trading system.

Algeria is also profoundly disturbed by the grievous economic, commercial and financial losses that continue to be sustained by the Cuban people as a result of that embargo and the negative repercussions the embargo has on the quality of life and the well-being of Cuban citizens. Those effects are exacerbated by the negative impact of the current global situation and the international economic and financial crisis, which also affect the efforts exerted by Cuba to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

Algeria reaffirms its commitment to the positions adopted at various conferences of the Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries and their ministerial meetings, including the ministerial meeting that was held from 7 to 10 May 2012 in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, when ministers expressed their deep concern with regard to the extraterritorial expansion of that embargo and their rejection of the measures taken by the Government of the United States of America with a view to strengthening the embargo imposed on Cuba.

Furthermore, in its capacity as President of the Group of 77 and China, Algeria recalls the resolution adopted at the Second South Summit (Group of 77 and China), which was held in June 2005 in Doha, which rejected the imposition on developing countries of coercive economic measures and extraterritorial laws, including unilateral embargoes, and reiterated the need to end the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States against Cuba.

Algeria therefore, in common with the majority of the States Members of the United Nations will continue to call for an end to this embargo that has been imposed on another State Member of the United Nations.

Angola

[Original: English]
[16 April 2012]

The Republic of Angola reiterates its commitment to defending and preserving the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, as well as to promoting and strengthening the multilateral decision process, and it therefore rejects the adoption of any unilateral actions by a United Nations Member State that seriously violates the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-interference in the internal affairs of each State.

Considering that in this era of globalization it is unacceptable that a State suffer impositions of restrictions to freely exercise its trade law and to develop economically, the Republic of Angola reiterates the need for strict compliance with the objectives and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and reaffirms the sovereign equality among nations, among other principles.

Given that the economic, trade and financial embargo imposed against Cuba has had a negative impact on the concrete realization of the economic, social and cultural rights of the Cuban people, and that such measure has also caused policy and diplomatic restrictions in the relations among States, the Republic of Angola once again urges the international community to reflect deeply about this matter and to redouble its efforts to engage the parties in a positive dialogue aimed at achieving a definite end to the embargo as soon as possible.

In this regard, the Republic of Angola reiterates its unconditional support for the content of resolution 66/6.

Antigua and Barbuda

[Original: English]
[4 June 2012]

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda remains fully committed to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and in particular the principles of sovereign equality of States, non-intervention and non-interference in their internal affairs and freedom of international trade and navigation.

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda expresses its concern at the continued promulgation of the economic, commercial and financial embargo against

Cuba, despite the overwhelming support by Member States of resolution 66/6, previous resolutions against the embargo and other relevant international treaties.

Further, in accordance with paragraph 2 of resolution 66/6, the Government of Antigua and Barbuda continues to refrain from promulgating and applying laws and measures of the kind referred to in the preamble of the aforementioned resolution, in conformity with its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and international law, which, inter alia, reaffirms the freedom of trade and navigation.

Argentina

[Original: Spanish]
[18 June 2012]

The Government of the Argentine Republic has fully implemented the provisions of General Assembly resolution 66/6 and previous Assembly resolutions concerning the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed against Cuba.

Act No. 24871, enacted on 5 September 1997, establishes the legislative framework governing the scope of application of foreign legislation within the national territory. Under the Act, foreign laws which, directly or indirectly, are aimed at restricting or impeding the free flow of trade and the movement of capital, goods or persons to the detriment of a given country or group of countries shall neither be applicable nor have legal effects of any kind within the national territory.

Article 1 of that Act provides that foreign legislation which, through the imposition of an economic embargo or limits on investment in a given country, seeks to have extraterritorial legal effects in order to bring about a change of Government in a country or to affect its right to self-determination shall be absolutely inapplicable and devoid of legal effect.

Argentina's vote in favour of the adoption of General Assembly resolution 66/6 and previous versions of that resolution was a reflection of its traditional position in favour of eliminating this kind of unilateral measure, and of its commitment to the Charter of the United Nations, international law and multilateralism.

In this regard, it should be noted that Argentina joined the group of 186 countries that voted in favour of the said resolution, in its own right and through the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR). Argentina also supported the adoption of the text through the Group of 77 and China, the chair of which was held by its representative. At the time of the adoption of the aforementioned resolution on 25 October 2011, the Argentine delegation explained its vote, cast in its national capacity, in the following terms:

> Argentina's vote in favour of the adoption of this General Assembly resolution was a reflection of its traditional position in favour of eliminating this kind of unilateral measure, and of its commitment to the Charter of the United Nations, international law and multilateralism.
>
> The Government of the Argentine Republic will fully implement the provisions of this resolution, as it implemented the provisions of resolution 65/6 and of previous Assembly resolutions concerning the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed against Cuba.

Act No. 24871, enacted on 5 September 1997, establishes the legislative framework governing the scope of application of foreign legislation within the national territory. Article 1 of that Act provides that foreign legislation which, through the imposition of an economic embargo or limits on investment in a given country, seeks to have extraterritorial legal effects in order to bring about a change of Government in a country or to affect its right to self-determination shall be absolutely inapplicable and devoid of legal effect.

The embargo against Cuba is contrary to the rules of international law and to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and yet — despite the international community's and, specifically, the General Assembly's repeated and nearly unanimous calls for the embargo to be lifted — the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba persists.

The embargo, which is contrary to the principle of justice and to human rights, is a collective punishment. It leads to shortages and suffering for the people, hampers and delays development and seriously harms the economy of Cuba.

Argentina joins the nearly unanimous rejection of such measures and reiterates its opposition thereto and its strong support for Cuba's call for an end to the embargo.

Argentina joins the nearly unanimous rejection of such measures and reiterates its opposition thereto and its strong support for Cuba's call for an end to the embargo. It has recently expressed similar views, including support for statements adopted at various multilateral forums since the submission of the previous report, which are described below:

Twenty-first Ibero-American Summit

At the twenty-first Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government, which was held in Paraguay from 26 to 29 October 2011, the following special communiqué on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the Government of the United States of America against Cuba, including the application of the so-called Helms-Burton Act, was issued:

> The Heads of State and Government of Latin American countries, meeting in Asunción, Paraguay, on the occasion of the twenty-first Ibero-American Summit:
>
> In view of the references to this topic in the declarations adopted at previous Ibero-American Conferences of Heads of State and Government and recognizing the importance of reaffirming and updating the content of the communiqués adopted by the Salamanca, Montevideo, Santiago, San Salvador, Estoril and Mar del Plata Summits with the same title, in accordance with the theme of the twenty-first Ibero-American Summit, which is "Transformation of the State and Development";
>
> Affirm once again, in defence of free trade and transparency in international trade, that the application of unilateral coercive measures that affect the well-being of peoples, and their access to and full enjoyment of the benefits of international cooperation in all spheres, including the functions of

> the State and its development, and that obstruct integration processes, is unacceptable;
>
> Reiterate the strongest condemnation of laws and measures that contravene international law, such as the Helms-Burton Act, and we urge the Government of the United States of America to end them;
>
> We call on the Government of the United States of America to comply with the 20 successive resolutions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly by ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed against Cuba.

Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States

At the Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) held in Caracas, Venezuela, on 3 December 2011, the following special communiqué on the need to put an end to the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba was issued:

> 1. The Heads of State and Government of Latin America and the Caribbean, meeting in Caracas, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, on 3 December 2011, within the framework of the Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), express their strongest opposition to the coercive and unilateral economic measures imposed on sovereign countries for political reasons. These measures impair the well-being of their peoples and are designed to prevent these countries from exercising their right to determine, of their own free will, their political, economic and social systems.
>
> 2. They reiterate their strongest condemnation of the application of laws and measures that contravene international law, such as the Helms-Burton Act, including the extraterritorial effect thereof, and urge the Government of the United States of America to end them.
>
> 3. Consequently, they call on the Government of the United States of America, in accordance with the successive resolutions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly and in response to repeated calls from the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, to put an end to the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba, which is contrary to international law, inflicts extensive and unwarranted harm on the Cuban people and affects peace and harmonious relations among the nations of the Americas.

Regular meeting of the Latin American Council of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System

At the thirty-seventh regular meeting of the Latin American Council of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA), held in Caracas from 19 to 21 October 2011, the following declaration on ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba was adopted:

> The Latin American Council of SELA, gathered at its ministerial session in Caracas on 20 October 2011,

Recalling:

- The mandate given by the States members of SELA to the Permanent Secretariat (article 4, Decision No. 377) to submit an annual report on the application of the Helms-Burton Act and the economic sanctions imposed by the United States of America against Cuba;
- That the adverse effects of such sanctions on the part of the United States of America affect not only one State member of SELA but also impose certain rules and regulations upon the international community concerning the development of economic relations with Cuba;
- Latin American Council Decision No. 112, entitled "Imposition of Coercive Economic Measures", and Nos. 356 and 360, which reject the implementation of unilateral measures that affect the free flow of international trade, in violation of international law and the most basic principles of regional coexistence;
- Latin American Council Decisions Nos. 377, 390, 401, 421, 432, 438, 444, 453, 463, 477 and 482, on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba;
- The declaration on ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba, adopted by consensus by the States members of SELA at the thirty-fifth and thirty-sixth regular meetings of the Latin American Council (Caracas, 29 October 2009 and 28 October 2010, respectively);
- The relevant United Nations General Assembly resolutions adopted over the past 19 years, which call for ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba.

Bearing in mind:

- The need to reaffirm, among other principles, the sovereign equality of States, non-interference in their internal affairs and freedom of international trade and navigation, as enshrined in numerous international legal instruments;
- That despite the expectations of the international community, the new United States administration has not eliminated the array of regulations and laws imposing the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba;
- That the decision taken by the current United States administration on 13 September 2011 to extend the implementation against Cuba of the Trading with the Enemy Act — on which the other laws and regulations imposing sanctions against Cuba since 1962 are based — demonstrates that the entire legislative framework maintaining that policy is still in place;
- That the analysis contained in the document of the Permanent Secretariat of SELA, entitled "Follow-up report on the application of the Helms-Burton Law, 2010-2011", presents a detailed description of the effects of the embargo on various economic sectors of the Republic of Cuba, and of

the extraterritorial nature of some of the measures and provisions adopted in this connection by the United States of America.

Declares that:

1. The economic, commercial and financial embargo by the United States of America against Cuba violates international law and is contrary to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the rules of the international trade system and the free flow of navigation.

2. The Latin American Council strongly condemns the application of any law or measure that is contrary to international law, such as the Helms-Burton Act; and in this connection it urges the Government of the United States of America to put an end to its application.

3. In accordance with Decision No. 482, the Permanent Secretariat will continue to examine this issue, which is of particular relevance to the external relations of the region, and keep the Latin American Council informed of developments in that regard, with a view to taking a decision at its thirty-eighth regular meeting in 2012.

4. The Latin American Council calls upon the Government of the United States of America to comply with the successive resolutions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly by ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo that it continues to impose against Cuba.

Armenia

[Original: English]
[4 June 2012]

Armenia, suffering an almost 20-year long blockade imposed by Azerbaijan and Turkey, has always stood against economic, trade and other kinds of embargos and blockades, which have a devastating impact on the political, the economic and the social growth of the affected States, especially those that are landlocked and developing.

Armenian legislation contains no laws or measures of the kind referred to in the preamble to General Assembly resolution 66/6.

The Republic of Armenia enjoys diplomatic, economic and trade relations with the Republic of Cuba and is looking forward to their further development and strengthening.

Australia

[Original: English]
[1 June 2012]

The Government of Australia reaffirms its position in support of General Assembly resolution 66/6. Since 1996, the Government of Australia has consistently supported General Assembly resolutions calling for an end to the trade embargo against Cuba. Australia has no trade or economic legislation or measures that restrict or discourage trade or investment to or from Cuba.

Azerbaijan

[Original: English]
[5 July 2012]

The Republic of Azerbaijan firmly upholds the norms and principles of international law in its foreign policy.

The Republic of Azerbaijan enjoys friendly diplomatic, economic and trade relations with the Republic of Cuba. Azerbaijan has not promulgated or applied laws or measures against Cuba that would prohibit economic, trade or financial relations between Azerbaijan and Cuba. Eight cooperation agreements currently exist between the two republics. In order to further develop bilateral relations, an intergovernmental commission between the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Government of the Republic of Cuba was established on 18 October 2007. In 2011 foreign trade turnover between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Cuba reached $240,000.

The Republic of Azerbaijan will continue to undertake appropriate measures to strengthen cooperation and develop friendly relations with the Republic of Cuba.

Bahamas

[Original: English]
[9 May 2012]

The Commonwealth of the Bahamas continues to enjoy normal diplomatic and trade relations with the Republic of Cuba.

During the current reporting period, the Bahamas has not promulgated or applied laws or measures against Cuba that would prohibit economic, commercial or financial relations between the Bahamas and the Republic of Cuba.

In this context, the Bahamas recalls and affirms the position of regional and interregional bodies, such as the Caribbean Community, the African, Caribbean and Pacific States, and the Non-Aligned Movement, of which it is a member.

Bangladesh

[Original: English]
[27 June 2012]

The Government of Bangladesh has neither promulgated nor applied any laws or measures of the kind referred to in General Assembly resolution 66/6. Bangladesh has consistently supported the aforementioned resolution in the Assembly and voted in its favour.

Barbados

[Original: English]
[31 May 2012]

The Government of Barbados has no laws that in any way restrict freedom of trade and navigation with Cuba.

Barbados has consistently voted in favour of the resolution on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba since it was first introduced in the General Assembly at the forty-sixth session, in 1991.

Belarus

[Original: Russian]
[22 May 2012]

The Republic of Belarus has consistently stressed the inadmissibility of the use of economic coercive measures and considers economic sanctions to be a means of exerting political pressure on a sovereign State.

The Republic of Belarus categorically condemns the application by the United States of economic sanctions against Cuba, as they constitute artificial barriers to trade. This unauthorized action against Cuba by the United States is all the more inadmissible for being directed by a developed country at a developing State, which is contrary to the norms of international law and to the internationally agreed development goals in which developed States have committed themselves to providing developing States with financial and economic assistance and to promoting their development.

Applying pressure is counterproductive. The Republic of Belarus calls for equitable and mutually respectful dialogue to help resolve emerging conflicts.

The inadequate response of the United Nations to the arbitrary actions of the United States is allowing that country to spread its practice of applying economic sanctions to other States by urging a number of Western countries to use that harmful practice as a means of subjugating the independent policy of other States to further their own political ambitions.

The Republic of Belarus, like Cuba, has experienced and continues to experience the negative impact of economic sanctions imposed by the United States and the European Union, sanctions which are mainly designed to harm the rights of ordinary citizens of the Republic of Belarus.

In a situation of political diktat, it is essential to strengthen the monitoring of implementation, including by the United Nations, of the resolution entitled "Human rights and unilateral coercive measures", which was submitted by Cuba on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned States and adopted by the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council.

In order to ensure effective action to oppose the imposition of economic sanctions by individual States against other States, the Republic of Belarus considers it essential to consider the creation of an effective United Nations mechanism to monitor the negative impacts of unilateral coercive measures. In particular, Belarus considers it appropriate to establish a Human Rights Council special procedure on unilateral coercive measures.

Belize

[Original: English]
[4 June 2012]

Belize reaffirms its absolute commitment to the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, including, in particular, the sovereign equality of States, non-intervention and non-interference in their internal affairs and freedom of international trade and navigation, which also form fundamental principles of international law.

In strict observance of the Charter and international law, Belize has consistently supported the resolutions on the embargo against Cuba and met with full compliance thereof, refraining from and rejecting the extraterritorial applications of laws and measures. The ongoing attempt to isolate Cuba in disregard of this resolution that is adopted annually and enjoys overwhelming support of the Member States of the United Nations is a flagrant affront to multilateralism and the political will of the vast majority of the international community.

Belize and Cuba continue to enjoy a constructive and mutually beneficial partnership that has yielded concrete benefits for all our peoples. Our policy of engagement is further enhanced through regional cooperation between the Caribbean Community and Cuba.

Benin

[Original: French]
[27 June 2012]

The Government of the Republic of Benin fully adheres to General Assembly resolution 66/6 and believes that the unilateral measures imposed against Cuba must be lifted unconditionally to allow the Cuban people to flourish and better participate in the development of their country and international cooperation.

In accordance with the spirit of this resolution, Benin maintains friendly relations with Cuba, marked this year among others, by the visit of the President of Benin's National Assembly to Cuba accompanied by a delegation of Members of

Parliament, which facilitated the strengthening of the political dialogue between the two countries.

Bolivia (Plurinational State of)

[Original: Spanish]
[8 June 2012]

On paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 66/6

The Bolivian Government strongly rejects the application by some States or groups of States of unilateral laws, regulations, provisions and measures for the purpose of imposing an economic, commercial and financial embargo against any other State, as well as the use of unilateral measures of coercion, discredit and disinformation.

By virtue of the principles of the sovereign equality of States, non-intervention and non-interference in their internal affairs and freedom of international trade and navigation, as noted in General Assembly resolution 66/6, the Plurinational State of Bolivia condemns in the strongest terms the embargo and economic war policies that the Government of the United States has imposed on the Cuban people, who have been directly affected — especially those in the most vulnerable sectors of society — for more than 50 years.

For the Bolivian State, the United States embargo against Cuba, which violates the aims, principles, purposes and spirit of the Charter of the United Nations and the Inter-American Democratic Charter of the Organization of American States, as well as the principles of international law, has an impact not only on the Cuban people but on the people of the United States of America and all the other countries and peoples of the world.

The embargo violates the principle of national sovereignty in particular, because it infringes on the territory of another State. From the point of view of public international law, the extension by the Government of the United States of its territorial jurisdiction over legislative matters is contrary to every principle of international law, particularly the principles of sovereignty and non-intervention in the internal affairs of another State, and is incompatible with the full exercise of the Cuban people's right to sovereignty, self-determination and development.

From another perspective, Bolivia wishes to underscore the fundamental precept established by the members of the World Trade Organization (WTO), who are strongly opposed to foreign laws that directly or indirectly violate the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of other States and infringe on their sovereignty. The arbitrary stance taken by the United States in not complying with its rights and obligations disrupts the balance and fairness of those rights and obligations that underlie the entire prevailing legal system. In addition, it undermines the trust that all members placed in the WTO agreements.

The fact that in the past 20 years Cuba has obtained significant international support against the policy imposed by the United States Government is a sign of the increasing sympathy which the struggle of the Cuban people against this unjust measure is eliciting at the international level, as explicitly reflected in the support given to Cuba by General Assembly resolutions: a convincing proof of the almost unanimous rejection by the international community of this inhuman unilateral policy that violates international law.

Given this situation, the Plurinational State of Bolivia joins in solidarity with and fully endorses the struggle that Cuba is waging on the international front and therefore expresses its support and backing for General Assembly resolution 66/6, which reflects the international repudiation of this type of unilateral measure, as well as its commitment to the Charter of the United Nations, international law and multilateralism. It also affirms its support for the principle of the juridical equality of all States and respect for their sovereignty and confirms that this should take absolute priority over any economic, political or other type of dispute.

The Plurinational State of Bolivia has adopted a new type of cooperation and economic complementarity between countries, based on the principles of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America-Peoples' Trade Agreement (ALBA-TCP).

In this context, bilateral relations between the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Cuba are guided by a spirit of unity and justice for the benefit of their people, with a view to increasing the two countries' participation in the international economy and strengthening their cooperation and trade; the First Protocol Additional to Economic Complementarity Agreement No. 47, signed on 4 February 2009, is therefore being fully implemented, reaffirming the desire to create closer ties between their Governments and peoples; it includes market access facilities and complete trade liberalization, thereby promoting fair trade for our peoples.

The Plurinational State of Bolivia acknowledges the effort made by Cuba to cooperate with the Bolivian people. In spite of the significant harm caused by the embargo to its economy, this cooperation is clearly illustrated by some figures: the Cuban medical brigade is currently serving in the nine departments of Bolivia. It covers 79 out of the 112 provinces, or 70.5 per cent. It provides services to 151 out of the 337 municipalities, or 44.8 per cent. Coverage in this area amounts to 22.3 per cent of the Bolivian population.

As of March 2012, during the previous six years 52,368,211 free medical examinations were performed; 54,610 lives were saved; and 624,741 eye operations were also performed without charge in the framework of "Operación Milagro" ("Operation Miracle"), which restored the sight or improved the vision of Bolivian men and women of varied backgrounds and social status. This important project providing ophthalmological care has benefited not only the Bolivian people but also the population of neighbouring countries.

Cooperation with human resources training is being provided under the fellowship programme. There has been an unprecedented expansion in the number of scholarships awarded to low-income Bolivian students in rural areas, of peasant or indigenous origin, under new projects initiated recently to supplement the existing cooperation, so that Bolivian scholarship-holders in Cuba currently number more than 5,800 students from various areas, most of whom are studying medicine, while the remaining 10 per cent are studying other subjects. Some of these scholarship-holders have now returned to Bolivia to complete their medical studies and are helping to shape their country's future.

In addition, 150,502 people had participated in the national post-literacy programme known as "I can continue", which is being conducted throughout Bolivia in 112 provinces and 336 municipalities, as of March 2012.

Accordingly, the Plurinational State of Bolivia reaffirms that, in the years since the election of United States President Barack Obama, many presidents, organizations, institutions and international figures have increased their calls for a definitive halt to these unilateral coercive measures against the Cuban people. The Plurinational State of Bolivia has shown firmness and solidarity in joining this call, in the hope that rationality will prevail, together with respect for the right to choose and fully implement the economic and political model that best serves the people, free from external pressures or policies and laws that violate international law and, in essence, undermine the human rights of an entire people.

The Plurinational State of Bolivia, in the various international forums of which it is a member, has unconditionally opposed the embargo against Cuba. Thus, at the eleventh Summit of Presidents of the States members of ALBA-TCP, held in Venezuela on 3 April 2011, it expressed its strongest condemnation of the United States embargo against Cuba and demanded an immediate, unilateral end to these policies.

Similarly, at the ministerial-level meeting of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Bali from 23 to 27 May 2011, and at the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly, Bolivia firmly rejected the unilateral measures contrary to the Charter of the United Nations and international law that were being applied by some countries against others, including the United States embargo against Cuba. The President of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Evo Morales Ayma, reiterating his strong solidarity with the Cuban people and Government in this just struggle, in the framework of the thirty-ninth General Assembly of the Organization of American States, held in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, from 2 to 3 July 2009, negotiated the revocation of the decision taken in 1962 to suspend Cuba from the inter-American system. That sent a positive signal with regard to the intention of the United States of America to change direction in its relations with Latin America and the Caribbean, especially as the highest United States authorities realized that their policy of isolating some countries in the region had had counterproductive results.

In view of the foregoing, the Plurinational State of Bolivia reaffirms its continued support for the adoption of another resolution expressing the need to put an end to the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba, which will be an important contribution to consolidating and supporting the international call for the United States to move towards the definitive elimination of this unjust and illegal policy against the Cuban people. Accordingly, the Plurinational State of Bolivia firmly states that the United States embargo against Cuba must be ended unconditionally, unilaterally and immediately.

On paragraph 3

The Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia has not approved any laws or measures that are contrary to the spirit of General Assembly resolution 66/6 and deplores the fact that other States have resorted to this illegal, harmful and inhumane practice in violation of international law.

On paragraph 4

The Plurinational State of Bolivia requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to continue to keep Member States and the relevant bodies informed regarding the negative impact on Cuba of the policies and practices imposed by the Government of the United States of America under its economic, commercial and financial embargo of that sovereign country, measures which also affect the sovereignty of the other States Members of the United Nations.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

[Original: English]
[28 May 2012]

Bosnia and Herzegovina traditionally votes in favour of resolution 66/6. Bosnia and Herzegovina and its institutions do not impose any economic, commercial or financial embargoes against Cuba.

Botswana

[Original: English]
[17 April 2012]

The Republic of Botswana has never promulgated, applied or enforced any laws and measures of the kind referred to in General Assembly resolution 66/6, and it does not intend to. As reflected by its vote on the above-cited resolution, Botswana is opposed to the continued adoption and application of such extraterritorial measures, and, in this regard, supports the immediate lifting of the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba.

Brazil

[Original: English]
[4 June 2012]

Brazil reiterates its firm opposition to the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed against Cuba, the extraterritorial application of domestic trade laws and the adoption of discriminatory trade practices.

In accordance with resolutions 47/19, 48/16, 49/9, 50/10, 51/17, 52/10, 53/4, 54/21, 55/20, 56/9, 57/11, 58/7, 59/11, 60/12, 61/11, 63/7, 64/6, 65/6 and 66/6 Brazil, has not promulgated or applied any laws, regulations or measures with extraterritorial effects that could affect the sovereignty of other States and the legitimate interests of entities or persons under their jurisdiction, or the freedom of trade and navigation. Brazil's legal system does not recognize the validity of the application of measures with extraterritorial effects.

Furthermore, Governments not complying with resolution 66/6 should urgently take further steps to eliminate discriminatory trade practices and bring an end to unilaterally declared economic, commercial and financial embargoes.

The Brazilian Government is committed to diplomacy, the peaceful settlement of disputes, economic and trade cooperation and the prevalence of the principles and purposes enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, as well as respect for international law.

The Brazilian Government not only opposes the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed against Cuba, it has also developed a growing economic relationship with the country. This relationship is based on the belief that the proper way to support Cuba is through its integration into economic international flows. On her recent visit to Cuba, in January 2012, the President of Brazil followed up on bilateral projects in the areas of investments, trade and the granting of officially supported Brazilian financing.

Brazil and all Governments in Latin America and the Caribbean repudiate the blockade against Cuba, which seriously affects the Cuban people. That position was restated in a special communiqué of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, adopted at the summit of Heads of State and Government held in Caracas, in December 2011.

In accordance with resolution 66/6, Brazil considers that there is an urgent need to put an end to the adoption and the implementation of unilateral measures. In addition to the adverse impacts they impose on the population of the country under sanctions, the extraterritorial nature of these measures is in clear contradiction to the basic principles of international law and to the good coexistence between peoples, which implies respect for sovereignty and freedom of trade and navigation.

Sanctions and embargoes harm the populations of countries involved, especially the poorest. Such measures have shown scant effects in achieving the results that would have justified their creation.

There is growing support at the United Nations for the lifting of the embargo, taking into account in particular its questionable character in relation to principles of international law and the rules of multilateral trade system. Intensifying economic relations with Cuba without any conditionality is the correct path that should be followed by all countries interested in supporting the development of the island.

Burkina Faso

[Original: French]
[3 May 2012]

Burkina Faso is a peace-loving and fair-minded country that fully supports the principles of the Charter of the United Nations. It has always rejected all forms of unilateralism that would interfere with the freedom and sovereignty of States.

With its constant faith in the virtue of dialogue, which it has always supported as a way to resolve disputes between States, Burkina Faso firmly believes that exchanges between States, whether economic, commercial or cultural, are likely to encourage the development of their people and help reconcile their differences.

For this reason, Burkina Faso has always endeavoured to strengthen the cooperative relations that unite it with other peoples of the world, especially the Cuban people.

It is convinced, therefore, that in an ever-globalizing world suffering from an international economic and financial recession, the continued imposition of economic, commercial and financial isolation on a State is a completely inappropriate way to resolve disputes. Consequently, it once again calls for an end to the United States embargo against Cuba.

It urges the two parties to focus on dialogue as a means to settle their disputes or, where necessary, to appeal to international courts.

In accordance with its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and international law, which establish freedom of trade and navigation, Burkina Faso has not promulgated or applied any laws or measures of the kind referred to in the preamble of General Assembly resolution 66/6 of 25 October 2011.

Burundi

[Original: French]
[4 May 2012]

The position of the Government of Burundi has always been to oppose this embargo.

Cambodia

[Original: English]
[25 April 2012]

The Royal Government of Cambodia is of the view that the prolonged embargo has brought too much suffering to the innocent people of Cuba. This illegal embargo clearly constitutes an act of violation of human rights and of the rights of the Cuban people's self-determination. Therefore, it is now time to end all unjust sanctions imposed against Cuba.

In this connection, the Royal Government of Cambodia wishes to call for respect by all Member States of General Assembly resolution 66/6.

Cameroon

[Original: French]
[19 June 2012]

Cameroon is deeply committed to respecting the principles of sovereign equality, non-intervention in the internal affairs of States and freedom of trade upheld in many international legal instruments.

Pursuant to the provisions of General Assembly resolution 66/6, together with previous resolutions on the subject, and in accordance with the above-mentioned principles, Cameroon has never adopted laws or regulations intended to strengthen or extend the embargo against Cuba.

Cameroon has always voted in favour of lifting the embargo, and it maintains excellent relations of friendship and cooperation with Cuba.

Cape Verde

[Original: English]
[24 May 2012]

The Republic of Cape Verde, in accordance with the principles enshrined in the national constitution and in conformity with the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations, which promotes solidarity, cooperation and friendly relations among countries and nations, has never promulgated or applied any laws or measures of the kind referred to in the preamble to General Assembly resolution 66/6.

Central African Republic

[Original: French]
[18 June 2012]

True to its commitments and respect for international law, and in accordance with its Constitution, which stipulates that the nation's concern must be to promote good-neighbourly relations with other States, the Central African Republic believes that peaceful coexistence is the foundation of international relations, underlying all other types of exchanges.

Accordingly, it considers that the embargo against Cuba, which has lasted for more than 50 years, is contrary to the rules of international law and international humanitarian law. This embargo must be lifted to allow free circulation of persons and goods in the subregion.

The Government of the Central African Republic will continue to stand behind the Cuban people until the embargo has been completely lifted.

Chile

[Original: English]
[10 May 2012]

Chile would like to reiterate that it supports resolution 66/6, inasmuch as the embargo contravenes international law and principles, particularly those regarding the equality of the States, non-interference in internal matters and the freedom of trade and navigation.

China

[Original: Chinese]
[23 May 2012]

For 20 consecutive years, the General Assembly has adopted, by an overwhelming majority, a resolution calling for an end to the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed on Cuba by the United States of America and urging all countries to comply with the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of international law and to repeal or invalidate any laws and measures that have extraterritorial effects affecting the sovereignty of other States, the legitimate interests of entities or persons under their jurisdiction and the freedom of trade and navigation.

Regrettably, over the years these resolutions have not been implemented effectively and the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States against Cuba has not been lifted. This is not only a serious violation of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and of relevant United Nations resolutions, but also a source of immense economic and financial losses for Cuba. It is an impediment to efforts by the Cuban people to eradicate poverty, promote their economic and social development and attain the Millennium Development Goals; it impairs the Cuban people's right to survival and development; and it adversely affects normal economic, commercial and financial relations between Cuba and other countries. At a time when the international community is severely challenged by a range of crises in the domains of finance, food and energy, together with the problems of climate change, the embargo and sanctions against Cuba are more unreasonable than ever before.

The Chinese Government has always maintained that the international community should base the development of mutual relations on the purposes and principles enunciated in the Charter of the United Nations, should respect the right of all countries independently to choose their social system and path of development, and should oppose the unilateral imposition on countries of military, political, economic or other sanctions. For its own part, China has always strictly observed and implemented the relevant United Nations resolutions. Currently, China and Cuba are maintaining normal economic and trade relations and conducting personnel exchanges, and the mutually beneficial and friendly cooperation in various areas continues to grow. This approach is both consistent with the aspirations of the people of China and Cuba and conducive to Cuba's economic and social development.

In today's world, dialogue, communication and harmonious coexistence have become key elements of international relations, and there is an irreversible trend towards communication and cooperation on an equal footing between all countries. When differences arise between countries, equal dialogue and friendly consultation offer the best means of reaching a settlement. China hopes that the United States, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and relevant United Nations resolutions, will put an end as soon as possible to its blockade against Cuba, and it also hopes that relations between the two countries will continue to improve, thus promoting stability and development in the entire Latin American and Caribbean region.

Colombia

[Original: Spanish]
[6 June 2012]

On 25 October 2011 Colombia voted in favour of draft resolution A/66/L.4, in accordance with the traditional position of the Government of Colombia on this resolution.

Likewise, by virtue of the aforementioned resolution and the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, our country has neither enacted nor applied any unilateral laws or measures against Cuba or any other Member State, in keeping with its policy of respect for international law and commitment to the principles of political independence, self-determination of peoples and non-intervention and non-interference in the internal affairs of other nations.

Consequently, Colombia promotes the independent development of the internal policies of every nation and believes that any measure that undermines economic and commercial development and the well-being of the population should cease.

Colombia believes that Member States must make progress in building cooperative and friendly relations on the basis of multilateralism and respect for the principle of sovereign equality and other provisions enshrined in Chapter I of the Charter of the United Nations.

Comoros

[Original: English]
[30 April 2012]

The Government of the Union of the Comoros reaffirms its obligation under the Charter of the United Nations and thus has not promulgated or applied any laws or regulations with extraterritorial effects that affect the sovereignty of other States.

Congo

[Original: French]
[30 May 2012]

Mindful of the provisions of resolution 66/6, the Republic of the Congo, in view of the excellent relations it maintains with the Republic of Cuba, has always voted in favour of resolutions recommending the lifting of the embargo, because it considers it to be a unilateral, discriminatory measure contrary to the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law.

In the light of the above, the Republic of Congo is opposed to and rejects the extraterritoriality of the embargo as well as all the decisions that only compound the suffering of the Cuban people.

Costa Rica

[Original: Spanish]
[1 June 2012]

Costa Rica, inspired by the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, has supported United Nations General Assembly resolution 66/6 and older versions concerning the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the Government of the United States of America, in particular through the Helms-Burton Act, against Cuba. Costa Rica deems this embargo to be a real obstacle to international trade that also, as a unilateral measure, affects third countries.

Costa Rica is firmly convinced that differences between countries must be addressed only through dialogue and multilateral mechanisms, and it expresses its total rejection of unilateral measures applied by any State Member of the United

Nations against another. Our country has reiterated on various occasions that any political, economic or military sanctions imposed on States may stem only from the decisions or recommendations of the Security Council or the General Assembly.

At the national level, Costa Rica has not implemented any actions under resolution 66/6, since there are no actions to implement. However, in its speeches in the international arena, Costa Rica has been consistent about the need to lift the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba because it believes that, after so many decades, those most severely affected are the Cuban people.

Costa Rica has defended the right of peoples to self-determination and deplores any measure that negatively affects the civilian population. Nevertheless, the Costa Rican Government recognizes the pressing need for Cuban authorities to be open to internal dialogue and to bring about the transition towards a fully fledged pluralist democracy, with complete respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Côte d'Ivoire

[Original: English]
[16 April 2012]

The Government of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire has never imposed economic and trade measures affecting the freedom of international trade. On the contrary, the Government of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, faithful to its policy of openness to the world and dialogue aimed at resolving disputes between peoples and between States, has consistently voted in favour of this resolution. Côte d'Ivoire will continue, within this framework, to work towards the full implementation of relevant resolutions of the General Assembly on this issue, which is still affecting Cuba and the Cuban people.

Croatia

[Original: English]
[20 June 2012]

The Republic of Croatia, guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, fully implements resolution 66/6, and has never promulgated or applied any laws or measures of the kind referred to in the preamble to the said resolution

Cuba

[Original: Spanish]
[5 July 2012]

"Our sanctions laws reflect core United States national security and foreign policy interests and OFAC polices them aggressively. Today's historic settlement should serve as a clear warning to anyone who would consider profiting from evading United States sanctions" ...

Adam Szubin, Director, United States Department of the Treasury Office of Foreign Assets Control, June 2012

Introduction

The United States economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba began from the very moment that the Cuban Revolution took hold in 1959 and has been institutionalized and refined over the years through presidential proclamations and legislative measures that have made them progressively more intrusive and more ruthless.

Since then the policy of economic suffocation that the embargo represents has not been relaxed even for a moment, clearly reflecting the obsession of successive United States Governments to destroy the political, economic and social system chosen by the Cuban people in exercise of their right to self-determination and sovereignty. As time has progressed, the political, legal and administrative instruments used to give effect to this policy have been tightened and strengthened for greater effect.

The framework that supports the embargo constitutes an act of genocide under the Convention for the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide of 1948, and an act of economic war in accordance with the Declaration concerning the laws of naval war, adopted by the Naval Conference of London in 1909. As can be seen from the information on the websites of the United States Departments of the Treasury and Commerce, the embargo against Cuba remains the most unjust, intrusive, severe and long-lived system of unilateral sanctions ever applied to a single country.

As a result of the strict and aggressive application of the laws and regulations that epitomize the embargo, Cuba remains unable to freely export and import products and services to or from the United States, cannot use the United States dollar in its international financial transactions or hold United States dollar-denominated accounts with third-country banks. It is also denied access to loans from banks in the United States, their subsidiaries in third countries and international institutions such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

One of the most prominent features of the embargo in the past year has been interference with Cuba's international financial transactions. According to the Department of the Treasury Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) annual report, the funds destined for Cuba frozen by the United States stood at US$245 million[1] at the end of 2011, hindering Cuba's economic, social, scientific and technical development.

In disregard of the will of the international community and the General Assembly, which has adopted 20 resolutions calling for an end to the embargo, the United States Government continues to assert that it will keep that policy in place as a tool to apply pressure and that it has no intention of changing its approach.

The economic damage caused to the Cuban people by the United States economic, commercial and financial embargo as at December 2011, taking into account the depreciation of the dollar against the price of gold in the international market, amounted to $1.066 trillion. At current prices, the damage amounts to more than $108 billion, based on very conservative estimates.

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[1] All dollar amounts refer to United States of America dollars.

Despite the failure to achieve its goal, the United States economic, commercial and financial embargo continues to be the main obstacle to Cuba's ability to reach its full economic and social potential.

Chapter I
Continuation of the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba

In September 2011, for the third consecutive year, President Barack Obama extended the Trading with the Enemy Act, which not only maintains the embargo's extreme measures, but also provides the President with the authority to impose other laws and provisions that complement the Act.

The United States Government, in addition to interfering unfairly with Cuban financial transactions, illegitimately keeps Cuba on the list of countries that allegedly sponsor terrorism and uses that fact as justification to monitor and obstruct Cuba's banking and financial activities even more closely. This is without any foundation, as Cuba is neither a terrorist country nor a sponsor of terrorism and, very much to the contrary, has historically been a victim of terrorism orchestrated from the United States. The only purpose of its presence on the list is to try to justify illegal sanctions which the international community opposes.

During this period, a foreign bank received the highest-ever fine for having commercial links with Cuba. The Dutch bank ING was forced to pay $619 million for having conducted financial transactions with Cuba and other countries. According to OFAC Director Adam Szubin, ING used United States subsidiaries to carry out these transactions and to evade United States controls between 2002 and 2007:

> Our sanctions laws reflect core United States national security and foreign policy interests and OFAC polices them aggressively. Today's historic settlement should serve as a clear warning to anyone who would consider profiting from evading United States sanctions.

1.1 Main measures adopted by the United States Government and proposals that demonstrate the continuation of the embargo and intentions to intensify it

On 7 April 2011, OFAC levied a fine of $22,500 on the New York insurance company MetLife for mailing a cheque directly to a Cuban national.

On 26 May 2011, the Republican Representative for the state of Florida and Chairman of the United States House Committee on Foreign Affairs, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, introduced bill H.R.2047, the "Caribbean Coral Reef Protection Act of 2011", which proposes amending the Helms-Burton Act to deny entry into, and the benefit of any relationship with, the United States, to foreign persons and entities contributing to the development of oil exploration programmes in maritime zones close to the Cuban coasts. In addition, this bill defends imposing new sanctions and prohibitions to deprive Cuba of access to petroleum resources.

On 19 June 2011, the organizing committee of the International Colloquium on Ernest Hemingway reported that the Department of the Treasury had denied licences to travel to Cuba for 14 United States researchers participating in the event.

On 20 June 2011, the television station CBS4 reported that the Department of the Treasury had refused to issue a licence to the Key West, Florida youth soccer team to travel to Cuba to participate in the National Schools Games.

On 19 July 2011, Representative Ileana Ros-Lehtinen sent a letter to OFAC Director Adam Szubin in which she expressed "concern" at the "efforts by certain travel agencies to circumvent United States laws by promoting tourist travel to Cuba", and requested information about the steps taken to block or rectify the actions of those agencies, specifically including Monroe Travel Service.

On 31 July 2011, for the second consecutive year, the social network Facebook blocked computer specialists in Cuba and other countries under United States sanctions from participating in a world-wide programming contest.

On 1 August 2011, the luxury travel agency Abercrombie and Kent suspended the Cuba travel programmes originally announced on 19 July, following the publication by OFAC of a statement clarifying that tourist travel was not authorized as part of the people-to-people programmes and that the "regulations still contain significant travel restrictions".

On 3 October 2011, OFAC imposed a fine of $502,408 on Flowserve Corporation, a supply company for the oil industry based in Irving, Texas, for violating sanctions against Cuba and other countries between 2005 and 2006. This company will also have to pay $ 2.5 million to the Bureau of Industry and Security in the Department of Commerce for alleged violations of United States export regulations.

On 1 December 2011, Marc Verzani and Adem Arici were arrested in the United States, of which they are citizens, having been accused of conspiring to violate the Trading with the Enemy Act and for concealing trips to Cuba. According to press reports, they had conducted real estate business in Cuba and could face sentences of 25 and 15 years, respectively.

On 23 February 2012, President Obama extended the directives concerning the "Extension of the National Emergency with Respect to Cuba" and the "Emergency Authority Relating to the Regulation of the Anchorage and Movement of Vessels", the provisions of which include a ban on travel by recreational ships and yachts to Cuba.

On 16 March 2012, it was discovered that the ESCO Corporation, based in the state of Oregon, was being investigated because one of its subsidiaries in Canada had used Cuban nickel in its products.

On 1 May 2012, the Governor of Florida, Rick Scott, signed House Bill 959, which is due to come into force on 1 July 2012 and prohibits state and local governments from concluding contracts valued at over $1 million with companies doing business with Cuba and other countries.

On 11 May 2012, OFAC updated the guidelines for implementing regulations concerning travel to Cuba. It put in clearer terms the licence request process and requirements for people-to-people exchanges. This OFAC announcement appears to respond to pressure brought to bear on the Government of President Obama by anti-Cuban elements in Congress, in particular Senator Rubio.

On 14 May 2012, the United States Supreme Court denied the request presented by the Cuban company Cubaexport to review the 2011 decision of the Court of Appeals for the District of Colombia Circuit regarding the OFAC refusal to allow Cubaexport to renew the registration of the Havana Club trademark in the United States.

On 31 May 2012, the Assistant Secretary of State for Public Affairs in the State Department, Mike Hammer, held a press conference via Twitter during which he responded to questions concerning Cuba sent from the United States Interests Section in Havana (USINT), defending the embargo as a way to exert pressure for political changes in Cuba.

As previously mentioned, on 12 June 2012, the Justice Department announced a fine of $619 million levied against the Dutch bank ING, for not complying with the sanctions regime against Cuba and other countries. It argued that ING had approved more than 20,000 bank transactions with these countries, with a total value exceeding $2 billion from the early 1990s until 2007.

1.2 Extraterritorial application of the embargo

A hallmark of the Administration of President Obama has been a strengthening of the extraterritorial dimension of the embargo, of which the Torricelli and Helms-Burton Acts continue to be clear manifestations. As is well known, these Acts have seen the United States Government illegally assume the right to legislate on behalf of other countries in their relations with Cuba, even claiming the ability to certify the conduct and actions of other States and their citizens who are not subject to United States jurisdiction.

As a result of the extraterritoriality of the embargo and the strict application of the related legislation, merchant vessels from any country that enter Cuban ports are still barred from entering United States ports for 180 days.

In addition, no third-country company that is in any way affiliated with or holds an interest in a United States company may do business with Cuban companies, regardless of the host country's relations with Cuba, the current laws in the company's country of origin or the rules of international law. The authorities of the United States Government harass, threaten and impose penalties on third-country companies with trade ties to Cuba in every corner of the world, regardless of their origin or assets and whether or not they have ties with the United States.

Likewise, interference in Cuba's financial transactions with third countries is increasing, regardless of those countries' relations with Cuba, the currency they use or their current banking regulations.

The extraterritorial application of the embargo is seriously damaging Cuba, but also affects the interests and sovereign rights of third countries and is a constant source of commercial and financial conflict.

The principal features that continue to typify the extraterritorial nature of this policy are:

- United States companies' subsidiaries in third countries are banned from carrying out any kind of transaction with companies in Cuba.
- The export to the United States, by third-country companies, of products originating in Cuba or containing any components of Cuban origin, is banned.
- Third-country companies are banned from selling goods or services to Cuba if more than 10 per cent of their technology consists of United States components, even if their owners are third-country nationals.

- Vessels transporting goods from or to Cuba, regardless of the flag State, are banned from entering United States ports.
- Third-party banks are banned from opening dollar-denominated accounts for Cuban natural or legal persons or from conducting financial transactions in dollars with Cuban entities or individuals. The processing of financial transactions linked to Cuba by third-country banking institutions is criminalized, even when they are in other currencies, and the said institutions are threatened with potential reprisals for alleged violations of United States laws.
- Third-country businesspeople who have investments in or conduct business with Cuba are penalized with the denial of United States visas, a denial which may extend to family members. They are even subject to legal action in United States courts if their transactions with Cuba involve property related to claims by United States citizens or Cuban-born individuals who subsequently acquired United States citizenship.

There are countless recent examples of Cuban commercial transactions with third-country companies that are not under United States jurisdiction being halted or hindered by bans, threats and blackmail from Washington.

The following examples illustrate this situation:

On 17 April 2011, the digital edition of the Spanish newspaper *El País* reported that the United States, through its Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), had requested the Spanish bank BBVA to explain the statement made in its annual report that one of its employees, out of over 100,000, was in Cuba. The SEC demanded from the Spanish bank information on the extent and nature of its past, current and anticipated activities in Cuba and on any contact with the Cuban authorities.

On 8 March 2011, OFAC, targeting the Compañía Puro Habano y Ron Ltda, of Bogotá, Colombia, froze the sum of $135,000 for the purchase of products in Cuba. It refused a request to release the funds on the grounds that frozen assets are only released in limited circumstances that do not involve commercial activity with Cuba.

On 28 July 2011, the German newspaper *Die Welt* reported that German companies were being banned from using the PayPal system for Internet payments if they traded in Cuban goods. According to the company spokesperson, this policy is connected with the product's country of origin.

On 29 July 2011, United States Representative Ros-Lehtinen wrote to both Timothy Geithner, United States Secretary of the Treasury, and Jan Hommen, Chairman of the Executive Board of the Dutch banking group ING, expressing her concern at the violation by ING of United States laws on Cuba and other countries. In her letter, she requested a determination of whether ING had committed such breaches, and called on the Department of the Treasury to hold ING and other similar bodies accountable for their actions.

On 16 August 2011, OFAC imposed a fine of $374,400 on the French shipping and transport company CMA CGM, for providing services to Cuba and other countries between December 2004 and April 2008.

On 12 September 2011, the SEC began an investigation of Spanish bank BBVA, for its alleged involvement in 1996 in an investment of approximately 20 million euros to set up a venture with the Office of the Historian of the City of Havana.

On 27 September 2011, 34 members of the United States House of Representatives sent a letter to Antonio Brufau Niubó, Chairman of the Spanish company Repsol, urging the company, in a threatening manner, to abandon its planned oil exploration work in Cuba. They warned that, under current laws, the company as well as its subsidiaries are subject to criminal and civil legal action in United States courts, and that violations of United States laws on trade with Cuba could have serious consequences for the individuals or bodies involved.

On 29 November 2011, OFAC levied a fine of $175,500 on the New York branch of the German bank Commerzbank for serving as a consultant and guarantor for a Cuban national in a payment to a Canadian company.

In December 2011, the United States Government asked the Spanish company Telefónica to explain its relations with Cuba, and reiterated its warnings of previous years. The company was obliged to state that it had not signed any agreements, pending authorization from the United States.

In December 2011, the management of the Hilton Hotel in Trinidad and Tobago, run under contract by the United States company Hilton Worldwide, was instructed not to host the Cuban delegation attending the Cuba-Caribbean Community (CARICOM) summit, chaired by Cuban President Raúl Castro Ruz. The Hilton issued a statement on 6 December indicating that it had been unable to obtain a licence from OFAC for the Hilton Trinidad and Tobago to host the summit, leading to a change in venue for the event.

On 27 February 2012, the United States Government froze 137,000 Danish krones belonging to a Danish citizen for purchasing Cuban tobacco in Germany.

On 25 May 2012, the Bureau of Industry and Security of the United States Department of Commerce imposed a fine of $1,753,000 on the Panamanian branch of the Swedish company Ericsson, the leading global manufacturer of mobile network equipment, for violating the laws of the embargo between 2004 and 2007.

The Cuban company Labiofam faced difficulties importing a mixed stock of lactobacillus from France for the Cuban National Enterprise for the Protection of Flora and Fauna. The French producer Sorbial, which marketed this product, later contacted its Cuban counterpart to cancel the contract on the ground that it had been acquired by a United States company.

The Cuban company Quimimport, an importer of chemical products for agricultural production, was obliged to cancel the import of 458 litres of Sofit 300 EC, a herbicide used to control weeds in rice cultivation, because the Swiss company with which it had entered into an agreement indicated that it could not supply the product owing to the embargo regulations. The company had up to $222,370 in lost income because it could not use the United States dollar.

1.3 Impacts of the embargo on international cooperation, especially from multilateral organizations

The impacts of the embargo on international cooperation with Cuba, including cooperation from multilateral organizations, have intensified under the Government of President Obama.

In January 2012, the Office of the Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Cuba announced that this international programme was having serious difficulties paying for the general operations of cooperation projects with Cuba due to the embargo laws.

As is well known, the most public manifestation of these difficulties occurred in December 2011, when OFAC froze more than $4.2 million in funds intended for three projects that Cuba is developing with the cooperation of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

These collaboration projects with multilateral organizations allow Cuba to purchase antiretrovirals for the treatment of HIV/AIDS patients, including ritonavir — 100 mg, produced only by the United States company Abbott Laboratories. In this case, the drug could be purchased for Cuban patients only after OFAC had issued a licence, with the uncertainty that time would pass and inventories could be depleted. Without this drug, 650 Cuban patients would have no alternative form of treatment.

In 2009, within the framework of technical cooperation between Cuba and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), a request was made for the purchase of equipment for inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (ICP-MS), a technique recognized worldwide for analysing trace metals in food products and environmental samples.

Since then, the Government of the United States has refused to grant a licence for its acquisition, thereby restricting access to markets for materials for detecting the presence of chemical residues in food, which represent a risk to human health. The impact of awarding contracts for the analysis of fishery products to foreign entities alone amounts to $70,000 annually.

According to the Institute of Basic Research in Tropical Agriculture (INIFAT), two international cooperation projects incurred losses amounting to $14,617 due to a 30 per cent increase in the prices of certain equipment, parts, climate control equipment, materials and expendable inputs, which had to be acquired in third countries.

The impacts on both bilateral and multilateral international cooperation with Cuba show the broad scope of the application of this policy, which affects all areas of the country's economic and social life.

Although travel between Cuba and the United States has increased, the Government of the United States continues to use the embargo regulations to limit academic, scientific, cultural and sports exchanges between the two countries and to hinder professional visits in both directions, for political reasons, including participation in events organized in Cuba and the United States. On multiple occasions, the Department of the Treasury has rejected requests for licences from American professionals wishing to participate in events in Cuba.

For example, in May 2012, the United States State Department denied visas to 10 Cuban academics and intellectuals to participate in the thirtieth Congress of the Latin American Studies Association.

Chapter 2
Impact of the embargo on socially sensitive sectors

2.1 Impact on health and food

Public health

Between May 2011 and April 2012, the health sector incurred losses amounting to about $10 million, which were due particularly to the elimination of markets and the increase in the cost of importing medical supplies and instruments, medicines, reagents, spare parts and equipment.

Although the export of medical drugs, accessories and devices to Cuba is authorized under the Torricelli Act (1992) and the Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act (2000), there are still extensive restrictions. The sale of health-care products is not covered by the licence exemption (or automatic exemption) that the Department of Commerce had established for agricultural products. A specific licence, granted on a case-by-case basis and valid for a given period and with certain conditions, is required.

Products subject to authorization must meet the control and classification requirements contained in the Department of Commerce Export Administration Regulations (EAR), which establish control lists on the basis of national security considerations or issues related to the biotechnological industry.

The granting of licences is contingent on the United States Government's ability to monitor and verify, through on-site inspections or by other means, that the product will be used for the authorized purpose. As a matter of policy, the sale of state-of-the-art technology in this sector is not authorized.

To date, direct imports from the United States are minimal and, for the most part, limited to supplies.

The following are some of the many examples of the adverse effects of the embargo on the health sector:

The William Soler Hospital Paediatric Cardiology Centre does not have access to levosimendan, a drug used for treating low cardiac output that is only produced by Abbott Laboratories in the United States. It also lacks nutritional formulas for newborn and breastfed babies, as well as oligoelements and some vitamins for parenteral use also produced in that country.

It is also impossible for it to acquire, in the American market, tissue laminates for skin expansion used on children who suffer severe burns. As a result, these products have to be sought in other distant markets at a higher cost.

As reported by the Cuban Society of Plastic Surgery and Burn Reconstruction, there is also a shortage of temporary substitute skin, such as the artificial skin Integra and the acellular human dermis AlloDerm, both made in the United States and used for patients suffering from severe second- and third-degree burns.

The cardiovascular surgery department at the William Soler Paediatric Hospital each year cares for between 100 and 110 children less than one year of age, more than 90 per cent of whom require parenteral nutrition to be able to undergo surgery and improve their prognosis. Cuba does not have access to parenteral nutritional supplements produced in the United States, which are of higher quality than those obtained by that hospital.

The company Medicuba SA, a drug, reagent and medical supply importer, was unable to obtain equipment for obstetrics and gynaecology because the supplier, A/E Panameña, cancelled the transaction, indicating that the factory that produced the equipment had been acquired by a United States company, which did not allow such exports to Cuba.

A Canadian intermediary company cancelled its sales contract with Medicuba to provide United States-made HIV-1P24 ELISA kits for diagnosing AIDS in the children of HIV/AIDS-positive mothers, upon learning that Cuba was the final destination of the product. Therefore, the Cuban health authorities had to seek other options, which meant searching for and importing these kits from more distant markets and at much higher prices.

The Neurological and Neurosurgery Institute was unable to purchase a laboratory kit CanA NSE EIA (ref 420-10) produced by the United States company Fujirebio Diagnostics, Inc. and used to detect the neuron-specific enolase protein in serums and cerebrospinal fluid as a diagnostic and prognostic tool in cases of ischemic cerebrovascular diseases, which account for high rates of morbimortality in Cuba.

The Institute of Cardiology and Cardiovascular Surgery plans to perform some 400 surgeries in 2012, 70 per cent of which will be coronary bypasses and the remaining 30 per cent will be for replacement of mitral and aortic valves. The fact that replacement valves, cardiac stabilizers and positioners and other equipment and materials related to these surgeries cannot be purchased in the United States has had many effects, including doubling the cost of these items in the country. Since the United States company St. Jude no longer does business in Cuba as a result of the embargo, the Institute's pacemaker and electrophysiology department does not have a non-fluoroscopic three-dimensional anatomical mapping system and as such cannot perform ablations of complex dysrythmias. Patients with such ailments must be sent to Europe for treatment, with the attendant risks and costs.

Cuba is one of the countries with the highest proportion of elderly persons in Latin America and the Caribbean, with approximately 18.1per cent of its population aged over 60. Among this population, some 130,000 people suffer from Alzheimer's disease or a related form of dementia. Treating these patients is made difficult by Cuba's inability to obtain the principal cholinesterase inhibitors, in particular the drug Aricept (Donepezilo), produced by the United States company Pfizer. The same is true for the new atypical antipsychotic medications, intended to control the psychic and behavioural symptoms that are the primary causes of institutionalization.

As noted in previous reports, Cuba is still not permitted to purchase new United-States-made cystostatics for certain illnesses, and is still being denied access to medical literature, Internet sites created to facilitate the free exchange of information, and software that are essential for scientific modelling and simulation and allow users to view advanced image-processing systems for diagnosing diseases.

Food

The basic purpose of the embargo has been to cause damage and impose restrictions in this area.

From March 2011 to March 2012, losses amounted to some $131,572,967, owing to many factors, including the need to purchase food from distant markets, with the concomitant increase in insurance and freight charges, and the additional cost of keeping resources in inventory.

Although agricultural products and food can be imported from the United States, there are still no trading relations in this area between both countries. The limited possibility of purchasing food continues to be governed by very strict regulations, and is subject to a complex licensing mechanism that applies to travel by United States business representatives, the signing of contracts, and transport and expenses resulting from these transactions. In addition, OFAC reserves the right to cancel these licenses without warning or explanation.

The impact on the company Alimport is particularly significant, and can be summarized as follows:

- The lack of access to financing from United States credit entities and other similar institutions has a decisive impact on the so-called "country risk" for third-party creditors. As a result, the financial costs of its transactions have risen by approximately 5 per cent and can even exceed those of interbank transactions normally quoted on the market. It is estimated that this factor generated a loss of almost $46 million during the reporting period.
- The absence of relations between Cuban and United States banks and the constant monitoring of financial agencies by the Government of the United States forced Alimport to channel its payments through third parties, which sometimes involved more than two financial institutions. These endless manoeuvres required outlays of $11 million in liquid funds.
- The fact that Cuban banks cannot make payments in United States dollars to third countries forces them to purchase repayment currencies, which causes considerable losses owing to currency exchange risks and the high volatility of financial markets. This limitation, along with the need to seek alternatives in order to satisfy suppliers, caused the company to lose some $33 million.
- Due to the ban on exporting Cuban products to the United States market and the restrictions on United States vessels loading cargo in Cuba for transportation to other destinations, ships carrying agricultural products purchased in the United States are forced to sail in ballast, thus raising freight charges. In 2011, the country incurred extra freight charges of $3 million.

However, regardless of the aforementioned, the sizeable amounts not earned from the export of goods and services deserve a special mention. The United States market is one of the largest in the world for food and fish products exported by the leading Cuban companies in these sectors. Given its proximity to our country, the United States would be the natural target market for these products if there was no embargo against Cuba, resulting in lost income of more than $122 million, as estimated by Cuban exporters.

One of the most relevant examples is that of rum, considering that the United States represents 40 per cent of the international rum market. The ban on accessing the United States market has cost the Cuban rum industry more than $100 million in gross sales that could have been generated in that market.

Similarly, all exports of the Cuban company Caribex, especially of lobster tails and sea prawns, could have gone to the United States market. Due to the embargo, such Cuban exports are subject to high tariffs in other markets (whereas they are tariff-free in the United States market), high transportation costs along with the risks of long crossings for the goods, and burdensome exchange rates resulting from the ban on using the United States dollar in transactions.

Additionally, the fact that inputs for the Cuban food industry, such as packaging products and preservatives, malt, hop and pulp for the manufacture of children's foods, have to be imported from other distant markets, has led to lost income of more than $1 million.

2.2 Education, culture and sports

Despite the efforts of the Cuban Government to guarantee free education, culture and sports for all of its citizens, the embargo creates daily shortages that affect the development of these sectors.

As a result of the implementation of this policy, Cuba still has no access to the United States market for the purchase of school supplies and basic materials and for the exchange of scientific, cultural and sports information.

In order to import a wide range of educational products acquired in Asia, the company Consumimport had to hire two hundred and thirty-nine 20-foot containers and two hundred and eighty-five 40-foot containers, for an additional cost of $812,767, owing to the difference in freight charges compared with the United States market. It also incurred $47,996 in additional costs arising from its inability to use the United States dollar, for a total loss of $863,023. Absent these losses, the company would have been able to purchase some 14 million pencils or 25 million semi-manufactured pencils.

The following are other examples of the impact of the embargo on the education, culture and sports sectors:

In September 2011, OFAC seized $1,409.85 which a Spanish citizen was transferring to pay the quarterly school fees for his two children studying at the French School of Havana.

On 21 March 2012, the United States Department of the Treasury prevented Professor Alan Hoffman, of the University of Washington, from giving a course on biomaterials in Cuba. Mr. Hoffman had planned to participate in the Third International Course on Biomaterials, sponsored by the UNESCO Chair in Biomaterials at the University of Havana, the Centre of Biomaterials (Biomat-Cuba) and the Spanish National Research Council.

The Cuban Cultural Goods Fund, which is responsible for importing basic materials, accessories, tools and supplies for artistic creation, is still unable to acquire these products in the United States and must turn to distant markets, thereby increasing its operating costs. The same is true for the purchase of skins for use by craft workers.

Research, academic and cultural institutions in the United States are prohibited from purchasing Cuban books for their collections. In 2011, at the twenty-fifth Guadalajara International Book Fair, in Mexico, the organizers had to warn United States librarians and distributors against purchasing Cuban books at the event, due to the embargo against Cuba; their Cuban counterparts were also not allowed to purchase contemporary United States literature.

Furthermore, the high-performing Cuban sports teams that are preparing for the 2012 Olympic Games have been forced, in some cases, to abandon their efforts to acquire high-level sports equipment, which are produced mainly by United States companies, and in other cases have been forced to purchase them from distant markets at much higher prices.

The Coliseo de la Ciudad Deportiva, an emblematic sports facility in Cuba, has been unable to purchase the air conditioning system necessary for its proper operation, because the main manufacturers and suppliers of the required equipment are from the United States, generating $550,000 in lost income.

Chapter 3

Impact of the embargo on the external sector of the economy

3.1 Impact on foreign trade

Cuba is a small developing country with an economy that is heavily dependent for its development on foreign trade, technology and capital, credit, investment and international cooperation.

The current economic and financial crisis is having a particularly negative bearing on trade, foreign investment and international cooperation. In the case of Cuba, the impact is even greater because of the embargo.

During the reporting period, the impact of the embargo on foreign trade amounted to $3,553,602,645.

If this is compared with 2010-2011, when total losses reached $3,095,274,058, the adverse impact on Cuba's foreign trade increased by 15 per cent, and was even higher in the specific case of income not earned from the export of goods and services, where the losses exceeded 20 per cent. The damage caused by restrictions imposed on United States citizens travelling to Cuba remains significant, with the tourism industry losing more than $2.3 billion annually.

During the reporting period, losses arising from the inability to use the United States dollar in Cuban foreign transactions rose by more than 57 per cent, and losses arising from such actions as withholding of funds, breach of contract and disputes, also rose.

The losses with the greatest impact in the sector still resulted primarily from the inability to access the United States market in order to sell its products, including tobacco products, and to acquire technology, equipment and general inputs for these products.

The estimated impact on the company TabaCuba stemmed mainly from lost income arising from its inability to export to the United States market, the largest premium tobacco market in the world (representing 64 per cent of the total), which accounted for some 278.5 million units in 2011.

In the light of Cuba's current and real capacity for sugar production and export to the world market, based on the tonnage already committed to other destinations and on the difference between the price invoiced and the price under the New York Sugar No. 16 contract, which applies to United States imports under the preferential scheme, the company Cubazúcar lost an estimated $29 million.

3.2 Impact on foreign investment

The estimates of the impact on the development of foreign investment in Cuba are primarily based, as in previous years, on the *World Investment Report*, published by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), and on the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) report, *Foreign Direct Investment in Latin America and the Caribbean, 2011*, which both report on data for 2011.

According to the ECLAC report, published in May 2012, the Latin American and Caribbean region had the strongest growth in foreign direct investment in the world in 2011. The flow of foreign direct investment to the region reached $153,448, an increase of 31 per cent over the previous year.

The estimate of the investment that Cuba would have received if there was no embargo is based on an analysis of the foreign direct investment that the selected countries received from the United States and on the percentage of total inflows to these countries in 2011 that this investment represents.

These countries were selected because their economies are comparable to Cuba's and because they have similar geographic, social and cultural characteristics, particularly with respect to the sectors to which the investment was allocated.

The following table shows the total foreign investment and the United States investment received by the selected countries in 2011.

Countries	*Total foreign direct investment flows in millions of dollars*	*Foreign direct investment flows from the United States in millions of dollars*	*Percentage of total investment represented by United States investment*
Costa Rica	2 104.1	1 282	60.9
Honduras	1 014.4	291	28.7
Dominican Republic	2 371.1	459	19.4
Colombia	13 234.2	507	3.8
Nicaragua	967.9	159	16.4

Source: Calculated on the basis of data taken from *Foreign Direct Investment in Latin America and the Caribbean, 2011* (Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, 2012).

An analysis of this data suggests that Cuba could have received foreign direct investment from the United States in an amount equivalent to approximately $350 million.

Petroleum, tourism and biotechnology, which rank among the priority sectors for Cuba's economic development and/or export of goods and services, are the sectors most affected by the restrictions that the embargo places on foreign investment.

Shares in businesses such as Sherritt International Corporation, which has investments in Cuba's petroleum and mining sectors, have lost value owing to the lack of access to the United States market and United States capital. Executives from this company and its three related companies that trade with Cuba (Moa Nickel S.A., Cobalt Refinery Company Inc. and International Cobalt Company, Inc.) were included on the list of business executives barred from entering the United States.

Tourism continues to be one of the main driving forces of the Cuban economy and development. In 2011, 2,708,964 people visited Cuba, 7.3 per cent more than in 2010. The necessary expansion of this sector requires continuing development with opportunities for foreign investors to invest in infrastructure for hotels and other accommodations and in the construction of golf courses, among other things. United States companies in the hotel business that have invested heavily in the Caribbean region cannot access these opportunities because of embargo-related prohibitions.

Despite Cuba's vast experience in the biotechnology sector, which has achieved the standards of developed countries, it has been seriously affected in the development of joint research projects, given the existing limitations on the establishment of strategic alliances with the leading United States companies in that sector.

3.3 Impact on the financial and banking sector

As has been indicated, during the reporting period, the United States Government's policy of hostility to, persecution of and attacks on Cuba's banking and financial sector worsened. Harassment of foreign financial and banking institutions aimed at restricting funds transfers to and from Cuban banks increased, allegedly because these banks could not do business with Cuba, which was on the list of State sponsors of terrorism, even though most of the transfers were made in euros and other currencies.

The primary effects on the banking and financial system were:

- Impacts arising from currency exchange transactions owing to the inability to use the United States dollar in Cuban external trade, making financial transactions more expensive because creditors require payment in dollars
- Closing of accounts in many foreign banks
- Correspondent banks' refusal to provide confirmation or notification of letters of credit
- Some foreign banks' refusal to make payments to Cuban banking institutions
- The need to maintain minimum balances in Cuban accounts abroad, given the embargo-related risks
- For some foreign banks, the requirement of incorporation in order to deal with Cuban banks; the obligation to provide information on their shareholders and correspondent banks, among others, with the justification that Cuba is one of the countries sanctioned by OFAC.

Some of these impacts can be seen in the following examples:

In 2011, OFAC fined two entities a total of $198,000 for carrying out unauthorized financial transactions related only to Cuba. Three other entities were also fined a total of $89,176,408 for jointly violating regulations concerning Cuba and other countries In this case, the United States bank JP Morgan Chase paid out the majority of the fine to settle a debt of $88.3 million.

In 2012, a European banking entity refused to open a current account denominated in euros for a Cuban bank, stating that the account did not comply with the bank's strategy for that type of product, even though it had accepted the Cuban request months before.

At the beginning of this year and without prior incidents of this type, another European bank, a correspondent of a Cuban institution, withheld the funds of a payment group acting as an intermediary for some Cuban companies, on the ground that, owing to OFAC restrictions, it required more information on those transactions.

An Asian banking entity refused to process a Cuban company's export transaction because the documents related to that export were withheld in the United States, causing the bank to reject the transaction and to return the merchandise to the country.

3.4 Section 211 of the 1999 United States Omnibus Consolidated and Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act and further patent- and trademark-related violations

The reporting period saw no end to the situation created by the company Bacardi's intention to appropriate the Havana Club rum trademark in the United States, where it had obtained favourable rulings in 2011, based on legislation which it had lobbied for and which was passed by the United States Congress in 1997, namely the notorious Section 211 of the 1998 United States Omnibus Appropriations Act on the registration, renewal or protection in the United States of trademarks and brands associated with assets that have been nationalized in Cuba.

Section 211 was adopted as a result of the manoeuvres of the anti-Cuban community in Miami and its allies in Congress, as reward for the substantial financial contributions received from Bacardi, which instigated these actions against the Cuban company Cubaexport in order to misappropriate the trademarks and markets of a genuine and legitimate Cuban product.

This provision prevents the Cuban owners of these trademarks or their successors, as well as businesses related to Cuban entities, from benefiting, in United States territory, from the recognition and enjoyment of their rights with respect to trademarks or brands that are registered and protected in Cuba.

February 2012 will mark the tenth anniversary of the ruling by the Appellate Body of the World Trade Organization (WTO) that section 211 violated the national treatment and most-favoured-nation obligations assumed by the United States under the WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) and the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property and requested that the United States Government end that measure, which is incompatible with the obligations imposed by the TRIPS Agreement, to which the United States is a party.

On 14 May 2012, the United States Supreme Court, citing section 211, denied the company Cubaexport the possibility of defending its right to renew the registration of its prestigious Havana Club trademark before the United States

Patent and Trademark Office, based on refusal by OFAC to grant the Cuban entity the licence that had allowed the registered trademark to be renewed in the United States from 1976 to 2006.

Since 1995, Cubaexport, in conjunction with the French company Pernod Ricard, distributor of Havana Club rum, has defended its right to register the well-recognized trademark, which was endorsed by the World Trade Organization when it ruled against the United States and called for the elimination of that illegal section.

This policy constitutes a serious violation of United States commitments concerning industrial property, by which it is obligated to protect the trademarks of Cuban companies and institutions. This lawsuit and other ongoing proceedings against Cuban patents and trademarks in United States courts show the United States Government's complicity in the dispossession of Cuba's rights and trademarks.

In accordance with international law, the United States is responsible for ensuring that its laws, regulations and legal and administrative procedures are consistent with its obligations under the WTO agreements and international treaties on trademarks and patents to which it is a State party.

Cuba has invariably respected, without the slighted discrimination, its obligations under these international legal instruments, thereby ensuring that more than 5,000 United States trademarks and patents have been and continue to be registered in the country.

Since 2011, some plaintiffs in the United States have maintained their intention to appropriate Cuban trademarks and patents as a form of compensation on the basis of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act, adopted in 2002 and extended until 2014.

Chapter 4

Effects of the embargo on other sectors of the Cuban economy

Between April 2011 and March 2012, the construction industry had lost income of about $1,027,000; this means that between 1,500 and 2,000 dwellings were not built, or that some 14,000 dwellings were not maintained, or that 9,000 dwellings were not repaired, which is a highly sensitive topic for the Cuban people.

Cuba is denied the opportunity to purchase hard and soft technologies for road works, such as concrete and asphalt emulsion production facilities, equipment and materials for road maintenance and repair, forcing it to acquire them from very distant markets at much higher prices.

During the period under review, the company Seguros Internacionales de Cuba, S.A. (ESICUBA), which annually protects the assets of the Cuban economy, faced major restrictions in purchasing reinsurance coverage from third-country companies that have interests in the United States and/or are listed on United States stock exchanges, mainly the New York Stock Exchange. At the close of 2011, this company had exchange rate losses of about $263,943,000.

Considering the large volumes of imports and exports realized by steel-working businesses, losses in the sector, which in the period under review totalled $102,500,978, were ascribed mainly to the inability to access the United States market.

The Grupo Industrial de Bienes de Consumo, which produces and sells medical equipment, household appliances, household items, store shelves, medical and office furniture, construction fittings, plastic boxes, electric resistors and liquefied gas cylinders and other products, suffered losses estimated at $15,846,000, which could have been sufficient to purchase equipment and supplies to meet the needs of the population.

The Grupo Industrial de la Siderurgia (ACINOX), which produces corrugated rods for buildings, electrodes for welding, electro-welded mesh for buildings, electric and telephone wires and conductors, refractory materials and water pumping equipment, among other products, recorded losses of $3.98 million.

Basic industry, which encompasses economic activities that are essential for the country, such as the production and selling of nickel, the oil and gas industry, and non-nickel mining products, incurred losses of $101,253,942.

The nickel industry continued recording significant losses arising from the inability to export products made totally or partially with Cuban nickel to the United States, even if they were made in third countries. It is forced, therefore, to continue selling its products to distant markets through more costly distribution channels involving intermediaries, and offering different discounts in relation to prices on the London Metal Exchange (LME) owing to political risk. Its losses are estimated at $80,343,980.

The company Cubaniquel was denied the right to purchase parts and accessories for the fire detection system manufactured by the nickel company Comandante Ernesto Ché Guevara, the European supplier indicating that it was impossible for it to go through with the transaction because the manufacturer of the goods came from the United States and was forbidden from doing business with Cuba. The total losses were estimated at $37,900.

The oil company CUPET is still the target of measures designed by the United States Government to impede its development, access to advanced technologies, oil products and the necessary finance for its growth.

A platform had to be built specifically for exploratory drilling operations in Cuba's exclusive economic zone, with less than 10 per cent of its components coming from the United States, whereas virtually all other drilling platforms in the world have a higher percentage of such components. The embargo is therefore preventing these components from being used in Cuba.

In the period between March 2011 and March 2012, tourism continued to suffer severe losses caused by the United States Government's economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba, covering major areas related to services, operations and logistical arrangements, which are vital for the tourism sector and which recorded losses estimated at $2,068,043,657.

One of the goals of the tour operators Cubatur and Viajes Cubanacán is to capture the Caribbean cruise market. Some 140 cruise ships operating in the area dock in Havana and other Cuban cities. United States shipping groups, which dominate the world market, are eager to send their cruise ships to Cuba, but the embargo impedes them from doing so. If the ban did not exist, it is estimated that at least one million out of the seven million United States citizens who purchase cruise holidays to the Caribbean would visit Cuban ports annually.

On 7 March 2012, it was reported that OFAC had sent a letter to the United States company Havana Ferry Partners, rejecting its request for a license to operate a ferry route between Florida and Havana, arguing that it exceeded the scope of the current policy towards Cuba.

In the case of the tour operator Grupo de Turismo Gaviota, it is estimated that, without the restrictions against United States tourists travelling to Cuba, and given the 88 per cent average occupancy rate of its facilities, it would have generated $258,416,623 in income, which would have had a favourable bearing on the sector's development.

The computing and communications industry has not escaped the adverse effects of the United States embargo. Due to the dominant position of United States companies in the high technology sector, Cuba's losses are estimated at $66,766,000, arising mainly from the inability to access that market directly in order to import equipment and technology and export services, as well as from the additional costs for other items.

The joint venture Empresa de Telecomunicaciones de Cuba S.A. (ETECSA) is among the entities that are still suffering the greatest impact, with losses in importing information and communications technology and related supplies. That factor alone caused ETECSA more than $14,090,000 in lost income.

Other impacts that were not quantified include those stemming from the ban on purchasing licenses for software products; denial of access to Internet sites and services, including access to sites for information and technical tools, such as PC Tools and NetBeans and open-source computer programs; as well as participation in commercial and other kinds of events.

The Cuban civil aviation sector is still affected by the United States embargo, recording losses estimated at $269,125,427 from May 2011 to April 2012.

Cuba is unable to purchase fuel, inputs and supplies in the United States market, forcing it to turn to third markets through intermediaries, with the concomitant increase in freight charges. It is estimated that the losses incurred in the case of fuel, which has to be purchased in the Mediterranean, amount to $5 million.

At the same time, even though the Cuban State offers all facilities to United States airlines companies in their operations in various parts of the country, the United States still refuses to allow Cuban airline companies to operate in its territory.

The transport sector suffered losses of $182,187,853.

The company Navegación Caribe (Navecaribe) has 90 vessels providing different maritime/port services through the country's principal ports. The quality of its services has been affected because it is unable to secure minimum and indispensable accessories and resources for repair and maintenance cycles, due to increases in the prices of spare parts, aggregates and other materials. Losses arising from freight charges are estimated at $250,000.

The National Institute of Water Resources had losses of $1,989,941 between April 2011 and April 2012 owing to freight charges and the costs of raw materials.

Cuba is still not allowed to import hydrometeorological equipment used to study the full water cycle, monitor the hydrological cycle, and carry out effective hydrological prevention. The German company Ott Hydromet GmbH refused to sell the aforementioned equipment upon receiving a letter from the United States Department of Commerce indicating that it would not authorize the licence because the equipment had United States patents. That refusal affected the macromeasuring programme, because a new supplier had to be found. It delayed the arrival of the goods by more than six months, a period during which the necessary measurements for hydrological prevention could not be taken and water could not be used more efficiently.

The company Worthington de México was prevented from selling US Motor Works electric motors for water pumps that had to be installed in pumping stations in various locations because its head office in the United States knew of the product's final destination. That refusal led to a loss in water supply to about 50,000 citizens.

Chapter 5
Opposition to the genocidal policy of the embargo against Cuba

5.1 Internal opposition in the United States

Opposition to the United States embargo against Cuba also grew during the period under review.

This opposition was expressed in many forms, including numerous statements and press articles by important political and intellectual figures, actions by Congress and state governments, non-governmental organizations and the business sector. The following are a few examples:

On 12 May 2011, Democratic Representative of New York, Charles Rangel, introduced three bills aimed at changing the policy towards Cuba: HR 1886, "Export Freedom to Cuba Act of 2011", HR 1887 "Free Trade with Cuba Act" and HR 1888 "Promoting American Agricultural and Medical Exports to Cuba Act". These initiatives are aimed, among other things, at authorizing United States citizens to travel to Cuba, revoking the embargo laws, removing Cuba from the list of State sponsors of terrorism, and authorizing direct transfers with banking institutions in Cuba.

On 23 June 2011, Representative Jeff Flake (Republican-Arizona) introduced an amendment to the Fiscal Year 2012 Financial Services Appropriations Bill, adopted by an oral vote, demanding that OFAC submit a report on pending requests for exchange licences.

On 8 November 2011, the Center for Democracy in the Americas published a public study indicating that the United States policy towards Cuba has failed; that it is isolating the United States from the Cuban people; and that a change of policy towards Cuba would have a beneficial and lasting impact on Cuban and United States societies. The study calls on President Obama to issue executive orders to facilitate the flow of financing; urges the United States authorities to allow Cuba to gain access to international credit institutions like the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank; and calls for the elimination of the anti-Cuba programme of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), considering it an inappropriate waste of millions of dollars that only increases tensions between

Havana and Washington. The Center opposes the United States policy towards Cuba and seeks to replace the current focus with one involving new policies that would lead to normalization and recognition of the Cuban Government.

On 18 November 2011, Richard Feinberg, researcher and Latin American expert with the Brookings Institution who was responsible for Latin America at the National Security Council during President William Jefferson Clinton's Government, presented a report recommending a rapprochement between institutions like the International Monetary Fund or the World Bank and Cuba, in the light of economic reforms that were being instituted in the country. Feinberg stated that his report was also intended to counter the prevailing view in the United States that the sanctions have succeeded in keeping Cuba out of the international financial system.

On 2 December 2011, the general secretary of the United States National Council of Churches, Michael Kinnamon, held a press conference in Havana, where he said that both countries' councils of churches had agreed to work together to end the embargo against Cuba.

On 6 February 2012, the polling firm Angus Reid Public Opinion released the results of a poll that showed that 62 per cent of United States citizens favoured the reestablishment of diplomatic relations with Cuba, 57 per cent supported lifting the travel restrictions and 51 per cent opposed the embargo.

On 14 March 2012, the Chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on State and Foreign Operations, Patrick Leahy (Democrat-Vermont), had an exchange with the Administrator of USAID, Rajiv Shah, during the debate on the agency's budget for 2013, where he expressed his opposition to the embargo and questioned the USAID policy towards Cuba.

On 11 April 2012, the Council on Hemispheric Affairs (COHA) published a report denouncing the United States for its continued irrational and imprudent support of a policy towards Cuba which, in the past five years, has proven itself a failure. The report also refers to the countless proposals by Cuban President Raúl Castro Ruz to establish a respectful dialogue with the United States, under equal conditions; criticizes the subordination of the external policy of the United States to sectors of the anti-Cuban radical extreme right of Florida; and indicates that Washington's stubbornness has caused it billions of dollars in lost sales to Cuba.

On 16 April 2012, the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Jeff Bingaman, stated that "… we [the United States] are outdated from the rest of the Americas in this matter [of the policy towards Cuba] and we should change our policy". He added: "I think we have allowed our policy with Cuba to be dictated by the Cuban-American community in this country, instead of national interests dictating it", and concluded that "… it is past time to establish diplomatic relations with Cuba and end the embargo on the sale of goods and services to Cuba and to purchase Cuban [products]".

On 17 April 2012, the *Los Angeles Times* published an editorial entitled "Time to include Cuba", in which it pointed out that the policy of banning Cuba from [attending the Summit of the Americas] for nearly 18 years should end and that it is time to include Cuba in the Summit. The policy has been backfiring; […] "it has not led to regime change, any more than the 50-year-old United States trade embargo on Cuba has". It indicated that, instead, the policy "has fuelled frustration among Latin leaders. Today, the United States is the only country in the hemisphere that has not restored diplomatic relations with Havana". The paper stressed that, "whatever the reason, the position is not playing well with leaders in the region, who see embargoes and political isolation as anachronistic policies from the cold war era".

On 19 April 2012, the United State Conference of Catholic Bishops released a letter sent to the Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton, in which it requested the Obama Administration to "completely abolish" the embargo against Cuba and called for the reestablishment of bilateral relations. The letter also indicates that the United States would be establishing relations with a trading partner that would benefit United States trade. In the letter, Richard E. Pates, Bishop of Des Moines, Iowa, who heads the Conference's Committee on International Justice and Peace and who participated in Pope Benedict XVI's visit to Cuba from 26 to 28 March 2012, added that, during his visit to the island, members of charitable organizations as well as high-ranking representatives of the Catholic Church in Cuba, told him on several occasions that they were being frustrated in their work by their inability to obtain United States products due to the embargo.

On 4 May 2012, organizations based in the United States that favour the normalization of relations between the two countries issued a statement in Miami, describing the 27 April 2012 fire that gutted the offices of Airline Brokers, a charter line operating flights to Cuba, as a "terrorist act". The text was signed by the Antonio Maceo Brigade, the Alianza Martiana, the Foundation for Normalization of United States-Cuba Relations (ForNorm), the Cuban-American Defense League and the Socialist Workers Party (SWP). These groups demanded that the United States lift flight restrictions to the island. "We regard this criminal action as a terrorist act, not only against this company, but also against the right of all American citizens to travel to Cuba ... particularly to share time with and to help families [of Cuban emigrants]", declared a member of the Antonio Maceo Brigade.

5.2 International opposition

There is growing and overwhelming international community support for Cuba and opposition to the embargo. Many voices are being raised around the world in favour of halting this inhuman policy. During the period covered by this report, many declarations have been made demanding the immediate and unconditional lifting of the embargo.

The most prominent of these are:

- The seventeenth ordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, on 30 June and 1 July 2011, adopted the "resolution on the lifting of the economic and trade embargo imposed on the Republic of Cuba by the United States of America". The text, adopted for the second consecutive year, reiterated the "call made to the Government of the United States of America to lift the longstanding and unjustifiable economic and trade embargo imposed on the Republic of Cuba, and thus enable it to enjoy all the legitimate prospects for its sustained development", and the invitation to the Government of the United States to lift its unjustifiable and long-standing sanctions against Cuba.
- On 30 August 2011, the non-governmental organization Amnesty International appealed to President Barack Obama not to extend the embargo against Cuba. As reported by the CNN correspondent, that text said: "We earnestly ask that

you abandon this policy, which for five decades has proven to be prejudicial for human rights". Amnesty International maintained that the embargo has caused the Cuban people's health conditions to deteriorate, given the country's difficulty in importing medicines, medical equipment and technology necessary to treat some illnesses and it also prevents United Nations agencies and programmes from sending support and resources to Cuba.

- During the general debate of the United Nations General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session in September 2011, dignitaries and high-level representatives from 39 Member States explicitly criticized the embargo and called for it to end.
- On 20 October 2011, the Latin American Council of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA), at a ministerial session held in Caracas, Venezuela, adopted a declaration entitled "Ending the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States against Cuba". In the text, they noted that the adverse effects of such sanctions not only affected a member State of SELA, but also imposed certain norms and rules on the international community to dictate how it develops economic relations with Cuba. The declaration "condemns the application of any law or measure contrary to international law, such as the Helms-Burton Act; and in this connection, it calls upon the Government of the United States to put an end to its implementation", and requests that the Government of the United States comply with the provisions of a number of consecutive resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly.
- On 25 October 2011, the General Assembly, the international community's most democratic and representative body, in another historic vote, unequivocally declared its opposition to the United States embargo with the adoption — by a vote of 186 in favour, 2 against (only the United States and Israel) and 3 abstentions — of a resolution entitled "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba". A total of 39 delegations and various organizations and regional and subregional associations, such as the Group of 77 and China, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, the Caribbean Community, the Group of African States, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the Southern Common Market and associated countries, participated in the general debate on the topic.
- The twenty-first Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government, held in Asunción, Paraguay, on 28 and 29 October 2011, issued a special communiqué on the necessity of ending the economic and financial embargo imposed by the Government of the United States of America against Cuba, including the Helms-Burton Act. The communiqué reiterated "the strongest rejection of the application of such laws and measures contrary to international law, such as the Helms-Burton Act and call [ed] upon the Government of the United States of America to end its application". The communiqué also called upon "the Government of the United States of America to comply with the 20 consecutive resolutions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly and end its economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba".
- The first World Bloggers' Conference, which brought together more than 400 digital activists, journalists, academics and students from 23 countries in the

Brazilian city of Foz de Iguazú, in October 2011, rejected "any restriction to Internet access, such as that imposed currently by the United States in its embargo against Cuba".

- The Latin America and Caribbean Heads of State and Government, gathered in Caracas, Venezuela, at the Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), issued a special communiqué on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States against Cuba. The communiqué reiterated "their strongest rejection of laws and measures contrary to international law, such as the Helms-Burton Act, including its extraterritorial impact", and "called on the Government of the United States of America to end its application". They also urged the Government of the United States to comply with the consecutive resolutions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly and to respond to repeated calls from the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to end the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed against Cuba.

- The Port of Spain Declaration on the occasion of the Fourth Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Caribbean Community and Cuba, which took place in Trinidad and Tobago on 8 December 2011, stated that: "We strongly condemn the unilateral and extraterritorial application of coercive laws and measures contrary to international law, the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of free navigation and trade in the world, and urge the Government of the United States of America to heed the overwhelming call of the Member States of the United Nations and to lift with immediate effect the unjust economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed against the Republic of Cuba".

- The CARICOM-Cuba Summit also adopted a separate special declaration of Heads of State and Government, which stated: "We ... are affronted by the intrusion of the United States against the sovereignty of Trinidad and Tobago. This is a unilateral, unwarranted and extraterritorial application of the United States Helms-Burton Act which is contrary to the Charter of the United Nations and to international law. It also flies in the face of the annual overwhelming rejection of this policy by the United Nations General Assembly [...] reject ... the intervention of the United States authorities which prevented the hosting of the CARICOM-Cuba Summit at the Hilton Hotel. This was one more demonstration of the injustice of the United States embargo and its harmful impact on the daily life of the Cuban people. On this occasion, the extraterritorial action could have impacted on the success of the Summit".

- The fourteenth meeting of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Authority, held in Rodney Bay, Saint Lucia, on 23 and 24 January 2012, issued a communiqué in which the leaders expressed firm support for the sentiments stated in the Port of Spain Declaration on the occasion of the fourth summit of heads of state and government of the Caribbean Community and Cuba, which categorically rejected the "unjust and cruel economic, commercial and financial embargo against the Republic of Cuba, and the extraterritorial measures aimed at extending the reach of the embargo to include third countries".

- The eighth special meeting of the political council of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America, held in Havana, Cuba on 15 February 2012, adopted a special declaration on Cuba's participation in the sixth Summit of the Americas, rejecting the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed on that country by the Government of the United States. In the declaration, the signatories decided "to approve the request for the United States to end the application of the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba and to begin a process of respectful dialogue with that country, on the basis of respect for its sovereignty and the inalienable right of the Cuban people to self-determination [...]; at the sixth Summit of the Americas, to unequivocally call for the end of this policy and the lifting of the embargo against Cuba [...] and to appeal to the Latin American and Caribbean nations to renew their calls for the end of the irrational policy", as they had done at the fifth Summit of the Americas in Trinidad and Tobago.

- The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Denmark, Villy Søvndal, referring to the fact that the United States had frozen the payment made by a Danish buyer for the purchase of Cuban tobacco in Germany, told the Danish newspaper Berlingske Tidende that: "the United States must not meddle in commercial business between Danish and Cuban entities". He added that "it seems unfair for the United States to interfere between European companies as in the present case, where it consists of a legal transfer of money between two European countries", and stressed that Denmark and the European Union were against the 50-year-old commercial embargo against Cuba.

- On 13 April 2012, the member countries of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America issued a special communiqué expressing their position at the Summit of the Americas held in Cartagena. In the communiqué, they stated their decision not to participate in future Summits of the Americas without Cuba's presence and "demanded the United States Government to immediately cease the inhumane economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba and to start a dialogue process based on respect for the sovereign will and self-determination of the Cuban people". Almost all the countries participating in the aforementioned Summit expressed their opposition to the embargo.

- The ministers of member countries of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, at the meeting of the Coordinating Bureau held in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, from 7 to 10 May 2012, reiterated their call for the Government of the United States of America to end the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba which, besides being unilateral and contrary to the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the principle of good neighbourly relations, is causing significant losses and economic damage to the Cuban people. They reiterated their call for strict compliance with all the resolutions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on the embargo; expressed their deep concern at the extension of the extraterritorial application of the embargo against Cuba and rejected the measures taken by the Government of the United States to strength the embargo, as well as all the other measures recently adopted by the Government of the United States against the Cuban people.

Conclusions

The embargo against Cuba remains and is expanding despite intense and growing calls from the international community for the United States Government to change its policy on Cuba, lift the embargo and normalize bilateral relations between both countries.

The embargo violates international law, is contrary to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and constitutes an offence against the right to peace, development and security of a sovereign State. It is, in its essence and its aims, a unilateral act of aggression and an ongoing threat to the stability of a country. The embargo constitutes a massive, flagrant and systematic violation of the human rights of an entire people and qualifies as an act of genocide under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide of 1948. It also violates the constitutional rights of the people of the United States, by infringing on their freedom to travel to Cuba. It furthermore violates the sovereign rights of many other States owing to its extraterritorial nature.

As has already been noted, the economic damage caused to the Cuban people by the United States economic, commercial and financial embargo by December 2011, taking into account the depreciation of the dollar against the price of gold in the international market amounted to $1.066 trillion. At current prices, the damage amounts to more than $108 billion, based on very conservative estimates.

The embargo continues to be an absurd, obsolete, illegal and morally unsustainable policy that has not succeeded and will not succeed in its purpose of crushing the patriotic resolve of the Cuban people to preserve its sovereignty, independence and right to self-determination; however, it leads to shortages and suffering for the people, hampers and delays Cuba's development and seriously harms the economy of Cuba. It is the main obstacle to Cuba's economic and social development.

The embargo is a unilateral policy that has been rejected both within the United States and by the international community. The United States must lift it unconditionally without further delay.

Cuba thanks the international community and trusts that it can once again count on its support to end this unfair, illegal and inhumane policy.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

[Original: English]
[27 April 2012]

It is the consistent position of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to oppose all kinds of sanctions, including economic, commercial and financial embargoes on sovereign States.

The unilateral and extraterritorial embargo imposed by the United States against Cuba constitutes an obvious infringement upon the sovereignty of Cuba, in clear violation of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, undermines the freedom of trade and navigation and the most fundamental norms of coexistence and respect among sovereign States, and constitutes a human rights violation by denying the people's right to life and right to development, and thus deserves strong denunciation by the United Nations and international community.

The United States blockade policy against Cuba, which has persisted for decades, has caused Cuba serious losses amounting to hundreds of billions of United States dollars in the economic and social fields and has also impacted third countries that have normal economic and trade relations with Cuba, thus remaining the main obstacle to the socioeconomic development of the country. As such, the criminal and anachronistic blockade policy of the United States against Cuba should terminate, without delay, in conformity with the relevant United Nations resolutions and the demands of the international community.

The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea constantly supports the efforts of the Government and people of Cuba to end the United States embargo and will continue to further expand and develop economic and trade relations with Cuba in the future.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

[Original: French]
[5 June 2012]

In accordance with the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, the Democratic Republic of the Congo continues to support any resolution endorsing a rejection of the embargo.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Republic of the Congo assures the Secretary-General that the Congolese Government will support Cuba's position at the sixty-seventh session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

Djibouti

[Original: English]
[31 July 2012]

The Republic of Djibouti has voted in favour of General Assembly resolution 66/6, and thus has not promulgated or applied any laws of the type referred to in the preamble of the above-mentioned resolution and, as such, the necessity of repealing or invalidating any such laws or measures does not arise.

Dominica

[Original: English]
[13 April 2012]

The Commonwealth of Dominica has neither promulgated nor applied any laws or measures that in any way hinder the freedom of trade and navigation in Cuba.

The Commonwealth of Dominica is in full conformity with resolution 66/6.

Dominican Republic

[Original: Spanish]
[31 May 2012]

In its international relations, the Government of the Dominican Republic acts in accordance with the norms and principles governing cooperation and trade among nations, underpinned by the Charter of the United Nations and other international legal norms. Consequently, it refrains from enacting and/or applying laws that contravene these norms and principles.

Ecuador

[Original: Spanish]
[17 May 2012]

The Government of Ecuador hereby reports that, in accordance with its standard policy of condemning the decades-long illegal embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba and its people, it has not promulgated and does not have in force any law or measure that could constitute any form of economic, commercial or financial embargo against Cuba.

At the same time, it calls for the immediate and unconditional lifting of all unilateral measures imposed by the United States of America against this Caribbean nation, which are causing it serious economic and social damage and subjecting its people to a large-scale humanitarian crisis.

By consistently supporting the resolutions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on this issue, Ecuador has made manifest its position that the extraterritorial application of unilateral measures against another country — such as the measures contained in the 1992 United States Cuban Democracy Act and the 1996 Helms-Burton Act — is completely unacceptable.

Egypt

[Original: English]
[9 May 2012]

The Arab Republic of Egypt has voted in favour of General Assembly resolution 66/6, in line with its consistent view that unilateral sanctions imposed outside the United Nations framework are not a course of action that Egypt can condone.

The embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba constitutes a clear violation of the principles of multilateralism and is in breach of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of international law, respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, and mutual trust. Moreover, it has detrimental repercussions on the vital sectors of the Cuban economy and on the well-being of the people of Cuba.

Egypt finds it troubling that the screws of this unfair blockade, which has been in force for over half a century, are still being tightened against Cuba. The embargo has an extended effect on companies and citizens from third countries. It thus violates the sovereign rights of many other countries. Egypt is deeply concerned over the widening of the extraterritorial nature of the embargo, which is an added argument in favour of the prompt elimination of those unjustified sanctions.

El Salvador

[Original: Spanish]
[1 June 2012]

The Republic of El Salvador, which has always been committed to the principles and purposes enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, and fully aware of the need to eliminate the unilateral implementation of economic and trade measures by one State against another that affect the free flow of international trade, reaffirms its support for ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed against Cuba.

It also notes that national laws with extraterritorial application continue to harm the legitimate interests of entities or persons under the jurisdiction of the Republic of Cuba and the freedom of trade and navigation.

El Salvador supports the immediate lifting of this embargo, not only in observance of international law, but also because the Government believes that it represents an irrational act that has inflicted pain and suffering upon the Cuban people.

The Republic of El Salvador wishes to express its concern at the ongoing impact of the embargo on the health-care system and food security of the Cuban people; it forces the Cuban State to purchase inputs from distant markets and often through intermediaries, which causes a significant diversion of financial resources that could be used in other areas of development.

Reiterating its support for the Latin American and Caribbean consensus and the solidarity of the majority of United Nations Member States in their endorsement of General Assembly resolution 66/6, the Republic of El Salvador calls for the elimination of these measures against the Republic of Cuba and hereby reports, in accordance with that resolution, that it has never promulgated or applied any laws or measures the extraterritorial effects of which would affect the sovereignty of the Republic of Cuba and its citizens.

El Salvador again calls upon the United States of America to end the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba and to initiate a process of respectful dialogue with Cuba, on the grounds of respect for its sovereignty and for the Cuban people's inalienable right to self-determination.

Equatorial Guinea

[Original: Spanish]
[18 May 2012]

The Republic of Equatorial Guinea reiterates its concern about the continued embargo, given that it adversely affects the Cuban people and violates international law as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

The Republic of Equatorial Guinea joins the immense majority of States Members of the United Nations in calling for an end to the economic, financial and commercial embargo imposed by the Government of the United States of America against the Republic of Cuba.

Eritrea

[Original: English]
[31 May 2012]

The Government of the State of Eritrea has not promulgated or applied any laws or measures of the kind referred to in General Assembly resolution 66/6.

Eritrea is strongly opposed to the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba, which is inconsistent with the principles of international law.

Eritrea joins other States in calling for the immediate repeal or invalidation of such laws or measures, which are having adverse effects on the Cuban people and on Cuban nationals living in other countries.

Ethiopia

[Original: English]
[19 June 2012]

The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia views the continued imposition of an economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba as a violation of the principle of the sovereign equality of States and of non-interference in each others' domestic affairs. In addition, the embargo has caused huge material losses and economic damage to the people of Cuba.

The Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia therefore wishes to see the embargo lifted in order for the people and Government of Cuba to enjoy their sovereignty, in accordance with the principles and values enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia believes that constructive dialogue is necessary to foster mutual trust and understanding among the nations of the world.

European Union

[Original: English]
[1 May 2012]

The European Union believes that the United States trade policy towards Cuba is fundamentally a bilateral issue. Notwithstanding, the European Union and its member States have been clearly expressing their opposition to the extraterritorial extension of the United States embargo, such as that contained in the Cuban Democracy Act of 1992 and the Helms-Burton Act of 1996.

One should underline the fact that, in November 1996, the Council of Ministers of the European Union adopted a regulation and a joint action to protect the interest of natural or legal persons resident in the European Union against the extraterritorial effects of the Helms-Burton legislation, which prohibits compliance with that legislation. Moreover, on 18 May 1998, at the European Union/United States summit in London, a package was agreed covering waivers to titles III and IV of the Helms-Burton Act; a commitment by the United States administration to resist future extraterritorial legislation of that kind; and an understanding with respect to disciplines for the strengthening of investment protection. The European Union continues to urge the United States to implement its side of the 18 May 1998 Understanding.

Fiji

[Original: English]
[14 June 2012]

Fiji reaffirms its Government's support for resolution 66/6 and reiterates its Government's position that all States should refrain from imposing economic sanctions of the nature referred to in the resolution, in conformity with their obligations under the Charter of the United Nations.

Fiji has not taken any measures that might impair economic, commercial or financial relations between Cuba and Fiji. On the contrary, Fiji is intent on developing cooperative relations with all countries and in this regard fully supports the call for the lifting of the embargo against Cuba.

Gabon

[Original: French]
[29 May 2012]

In December 2011, Gabon voted in favour of the adoption of resolution 66/6, following the example of the majority of United Nations Member States, and we remain supportive of the application of paragraphs 2, 3, and 4 of that resolution.

The embargo runs counter to the principles of the sovereign equality of States, non-intervention and non-interference in their internal affairs and freedom of international trade and navigation, which are enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

Gabon remains concerned over further measures aimed at strengthening and extending the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba and the adverse effects of such measures on the Cuban people and on Cuban nationals living in other countries.

Gambia

[Original: English]
[30 May 2012]

The Gambia has not promulgated or applied any laws, measures or acts that have extraterritorial effects on the sovereignty of other Member States, the legitimate interests of entities or persons under their jurisdiction and the freedom of trade and navigation.

We continue to be opposed to the enactment or application of such laws or measures against Cuba that impede the free and smooth flow of international trade and navigation. We also believe that the numerous General Assembly resolutions calling for an end to the decades-old embargo against Cuba should be respected by all. The embargo must come to an end.

As a responsibie member of the international community, the Gambia therefore joins other Member States in calling for the immediate repeal or invalidation of such laws, measures or policies as they are contrary to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

Georgia

[Original: English]
[4 May 2012]

Georgia reaffirms its support to resolution 66/6 and has not promulgated or applied laws or taken any measures against Cuba that would prohibit or restrict the economic, commercial or financial relations between Cuba and Georgia.

Ghana

[Original: English]
[12 June 2012]

Ghana, over the past 50 years, has never supported the imposition of the economic, commercial and financial embargo by the United States of America on Cuba, and accordingly has not promulgated or applied laws whose extraterritorial effects could adversely affect Cuba. It is Ghana's conviction that the unilateral American embargo against Cuba is not in conformity with the obligations that Member States have assumed under the Charter of the United Nations or under international law and as such should have no legal effect.

Ghana also views the embargo as morally unacceptable because to deny a sovereign State, a member of the international community, the benefits derived from external trade is indefensible. Ghana is, therefore, against the embargo and any law that violates the two cardinal principles of international law; i.e., non-interference in the internal affairs of States by others and the right of all nations to determine their own paths of social development. Ghana remains committed to these principles and has always supported the resolutions of the General Assembly that, among other things, call for an end to the embargo.

Ghana wishes to appeal to the United States Congress to heed the clarion call made in the General Assembly for the past 22 years for the lifting of the embargo, to reconsider its stand against Cuba and to treat Cuba as an independent State that has the right to choose its own path.

As developments in the twenty-first century have shown, it is significant to invoke our collective moral authority in a renewed call to all nations to reflect a spirit of cooperation, multilateralism and interdependence, as well as diversity in our cultural and ideological foundations in all their international dealings without exception. Ghana is, indeed, drawing international attention to the rights of the people of Cuba to benefit from their hard work and commitment to social justice. Cuba has sacrificed enough for well over five decades in its quest for freedom, and it is time for the international community to lend its unalloyed support to that cause.

Ghana would like to urge Member States of the United Nations to desist from any policy that depicts or promotes unilateralism in utter disregard of the Charter of the United Nations, its core values and fundamental principles. It is sad and indeed unacceptable for any nation in this day and era to suffer consequences by virtue of the path of development that they have chosen. The world in this twenty-first century cannot be expected to be governed by one single ideology. Let us, in the true spirit of democracy, allow the gradual erosion of outmoded ideologies through exemplary leadership, dialogue and diplomacy, without resort to threat and sanctions.

The ultimate responsibility for confronting and addressing the challenges we face in the twenty-first century rests with an international community that accepts the imperatives of our mutual interdependence and diversity in culture, ideology and the choices that we make.

Over the years, Cuba has demonstrated the spirit of multilateralism and international cooperation by playing host to thousands of students from Africa who have studied in Cuba and, upon completion of their courses in various professions, have contributed and continue to contribute to the development of their respective countries.

It is hoped that sooner than later, the issue of the United States economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed on Cuba will be a thing of the past.

Grenada

[Original: English]
[11 May 2012]

In adherence to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the Government of Grenada does not promulgate, apply or condone laws or measures that encroach on or undermine the sovereign rights of any State, or any unilateral application of economic and trade measures that would restrict a State's development process.

Grenada believes that the right of one State to determine its economic and commercial partners need not exclude the right of a second State to political independence and self-determination.

Indeed, the 50-year-old economic, commercial and financial embargo by the United States of America against the Republic of Cuba is an imprudent impediment to the natural development of mutually beneficial relations between two countries of such close geographic proximity. Moreover, the Cuban people continue to suffer the many serious negative consequences of the stringent measures imposed on their country.

Law No. 959, recently passed by the State of Florida, is yet another attempt to tighten the already tough unilateral restrictions against Cuba. Grenada laments and strongly condemns this latest development.

Grenada once again urges the United States of America to heed the unanimous call of the international community, for the unconditional discontinuance of the several sanctions against Cuba that are in fact inconsistent with international principles that promote peaceful relations among nations. Grenada, therefore, firmly supports General Assembly resolution 66/6.

Guatemala

[Original: Spanish]
[16 May 2012]

The Republic of Guatemala, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 66/6, wishes to report that the State of Guatemala has neither promulgated nor applied any laws or measures contrary to the principles and purposes enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, or contrary to the freedom of international trade and navigation.

Therefore, Guatemala is able to state that there are no legal or regulatory impediments to free transit or trade between Guatemala and Cuba.

Guatemala rejects any unilateral measure that contravenes the principles of free trade and international law and urges those countries that have and continue to apply such domestic legislative provisions to take the necessary steps to repeal or invalidate them.

Guinea

[Original: French]
[29 May 2012]

The people and Government of Guinea are deeply concerned about the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed against the people of Cuba, a matter to which they accord particular attention.

The Republic of Guinea, in accordance with its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and international law, and wishing to honour its international commitments and show respect for the rules, purposes and principles that govern the subregional, regional and international organizations and institutions of which it is a member, solemnly reaffirms its belief in the principles of equality, the sovereignty of States and non-intervention in the internal affairs of another State. Likewise, it rejects laws and regulations with extraterritorial effects and all other forms of coercive economic measures against Cuba.

On the grounds of its belief in the freedom of international trade and navigation, Guinea calls for the immediate and unconditional lifting of this unjust embargo, which has caused the Cuban people such suffering and so much economic, financial and social harm.

The Government of Guinea, aware that the embargo constitutes an attack on human rights in particular and international law in general, reserves the right to apply all the provisions of the various resolutions relating to this embargo. In that regard, it makes an urgent appeal for the immediate and complete lifting of the United States economic, commercial and financial embargo that has been in place against Cuba since 1962. The Republic of Guinea, as it has always done, will vote in favour of any resolution that reaffirms the necessity of finally ending this embargo.

Guinea-Bissau

[Original: French]
[5 April 2012]

The Republic of Guinea-Bissau expresses its full adherence to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations. It considers the United States embargo against Cuba to be unjust, arbitrary, illegal and immoral and demands that it be lifted immediately and unconditionally.

Guyana

[Original: English]
[11 April 2012]

The Government of Guyana has consistently demonstrated its unwavering respect for and adherence to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including those stated in General Assembly resolution 66/6.

To this end, Guyana has not enacted any legislation or adopted any policies or practices the extraterritorial effects of which affect the sovereignty of other States.

Guyana has also, as a matter of principle, maintained a consistent position of firm opposition to the economic, financial and commercial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba and reiterates the call for an end to this policy. Guyana encourages the process of dialogue between the United States of America and Cuba.

The Government of Guyana is in full compliance with and remains fully supportive of General Assembly resolution 66/6.

Haiti

[Original: French]
[17 April 2012]

The Republic of Haiti, desiring to respect the conditions set out in General Assembly resolution 66/6, is making every effort to refrain from promulgating or applying laws and regulations with extraterritorial effects that infringe the sovereignty of other States and the legitimate interests of entities or persons under their jurisdiction as well as affecting the freedom of trade and navigation.

Holy See

[Original: English]
[17 May 2012]

The Holy See has never drawn up or applied economic, commercial or financial laws or measures against Cuba.

Honduras

[Original: Spanish]
[18 May 2012]

In fulfilment of its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and international law, the Government of Honduras has not promulgated or applied any unilateral economic and commercial laws or measures against other States that might affect the free flow of international trade.

India

[Original: English]
[30 May 2012]

India has not promulgated or applied any laws of the type referred to in the preamble to the above-mentioned resolution and, as such, the necessity of repealing or invalidating any such laws or measures does not arise.

India has consistently opposed any unilateral measure by countries that impinge on the sovereignty of another country. These include any attempts to extend the application of a country's laws extraterritorially to other sovereign nations.

India recalls the Final Documents adopted by the fifteenth Summit Conference of Heads of State or Government of the Movement of the Non-Aligned Countries held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, from 11 to 16 July 2009 on this subject, as well as other high-level decisions of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, and urges the international community to adopt all necessary measures to protect the sovereign rights of all countries.

Indonesia

[Original: English]
[1 June 2012]

The economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba has caused hardship for the people of Cuba.

The continued imposition of an economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba violates the principles of the sovereign equality of States and of non-intervention and non-interference in each other's domestic affairs, international humanitarian law, the Charter of the United Nations and the norms and principles governing peaceful relations among States.

Indonesia urges States that applied laws and measures of an extraterritorial nature that affected the sovereignty of other States, the lawful interests of their subjects or of other persons under their jurisdiction, and the freedom of trade and navigation to refrain from such action. Indonesia continues to support this resolution and calls for the immediate cessation of such an embargo.

Iran (Islamic Republic of)

[Original: English]
[29 May 2012]

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran expresses its serious dismay at the continued promulgation of the economic, commercial and financial sanctions against Cuba, despite the annual adoption of the General Assembly resolution, calling for the lifting of and putting an end to the embargo against Cuba by the Government of the United States.

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran reiterates its strong belief that the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba runs counter to the principles of international law governing relations among States and contradicts the letter and spirit of the Charter of the United Nations, which calls for promoting solidarity, cooperation and friendly relations among nations. Such measures continue to adversely affect the living conditions and human rights of the Cuban people and will hamper the efforts of the Cuban Government to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. In that context, the embargo continues to constrain the efforts of the Cuban Government and people to eradicate poverty and hunger and to promote health and education, which are indispensable means for the achievement of economic and social development.

The economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed on Cuba, which has lasted for decades, serves no purpose other than that of inflicting tremendous hardship and suffering on the people of Cuba, especially women and children. The embargo has seriously jeopardized the legitimate rights and interests of Cuba and other States, as well as freedom of trade and navigation, and therefore has to be immediately lifted, as requested by the General Assembly in all relevant resolutions. Differences and problems among countries should be resolved through peaceful means and dialogue, on the basis of equality and mutual respect for sovereignty of Member States.

The adoption of the General Assembly resolutions, with such a wide range of support and for so many years, clearly indicates the strong objection of the international community to unilateral economic coercive measures in general, and the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed against Cuba in particular. It is also a sign of increasing sympathy with the struggle of the Cuban Government and people to put an end to this unlawful and inhumane embargo. Furthermore, as the international community faces major challenges, such as the consequences of the global financial and economic crisis and food crises and thus increased poverty, unemployment and malnutrition, the imposition of the embargo seems unjustifiable more than ever and deserves stronger objections at the international level.

The Islamic Republic of Iran recalls paragraph 25 of the outcome document of the thirteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development of April 2012, as well as the final outcome document of the fifteenth Summit Conference of Heads of State and Governments of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries of July 2009, as well as other intergovernmental outcome documents and decisions on this subject, and urges the international community to adopt all necessary measures to put an end to this inhuman embargo against the people and Government of Cuba and to protect the sovereign right of all other countries to expand trade and economic relations with Cuba.

The Islamic Republic of Iran remains opposed to the application of unilateral economic and trade measures by the United States of America against other countries that block the flow of people, trade and finance, as well as to the extraterritorial application and effects of such national legislations on the sovereignty of other States. The sanctions are contrary to the principles of international law, the sovereign equality of States, non-interference in the internal affairs of States and peaceful coexistence among States.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, which has been experiencing economic coercive measures, shares the concern of the Cuban Government and people and therefore emphasizes the urgent need to put an end to such measures and the full implementation of the content of General Assembly resolution 66/6.

Jamaica

[Original: English]
[1 June 2012]

The Government of Jamaica remains opposed to the unilateral application of economic and trade measures by one State against another that would obstruct the freedom of commercial activity, trade and economic cooperation.

To this end and in keeping with its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and international law, the Government of Jamaica has not promulgated any law, legislation or measures that would infringe on the sovereignty of a State or its lawful national interests.

In support of this position, in October 2009, October 2010 and October 2011 the House of Representatives of Jamaica approved a resolution supporting the removal of the embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba, noting that it affects the free flow of trade not only in the region, but also in the hemisphere.

Jamaica participated in the fourth CARICOM-Cuba Summit, held in Trinidad and Tobago, from 7 to 8 December 2011, at which a Declaration was adopted that, inter alia, strongly rejected the unjust and cruel economic, commercial and financial embargo against the Republic of Cuba, and the extraterritorial measures aimed at extending the reach of the embargo to include third countries. In addition, a special statement was released at the Summit that referenced the United States embargo against Cuba and its harmful effects on the daily lives of the Cuban people.

Consequently, the Government of Jamaica reiterates its support for General Assembly resolutions calling for an end to the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba, and urges all States that continue to apply such laws and measures to take the necessary steps to repeal or invalidate them as soon as possible.

Japan

[Original: English]
[31 May 2012]

The Government of Japan has not promulgated or applied laws or measures of the kind that are referred to in paragraph 2 of resolution 66/6.

The Government of Japan believes that the economic policy of the United States towards Cuba should be considered primarily as a bilateral issue. However, Japan shares the concern, arising from the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act of 1996 (known as the Helms-Burton Act) and the Cuban Democracy Act of 1992, that if the application of such legislation causes undue hardship in relation to the economic activities of the enterprises or nationals of a third party, the legislation is likely to run counter to international law regarding the extraterritorial application of domestic laws.

The Government of Japan has been closely following the situation in relation to the above-mentioned legislation and the surrounding circumstances, and its concern remains unchanged. Having considered the matter with the utmost care, Japan voted in favour of resolution 66/6.

Kazakhstan

[Original: English]
[31 May 2012]

In its foreign policy, Kazakhstan is guided by the principles of international law and stands for the rights of nations to develop according to their own way of development.

Kazakhstan strongly condemns any unilateral acts that affect sovereignty of another State. Kazakhstan has never accepted any national regulations that infringe, impede or retard the development of foreign countries, including in their economic, commercial and financial spheres. In this regard, Kazakhstan, like the overwhelming majority of the international community, calls for lifting the embargo against Cuba and the cessation of all acts that are contrary to the principles of international law and the Charter of the United Nations.

Kenya

[Original: English]
[30 May 2012]

The Government of Kenya reaffirms its objection to unilateral coercive measures that are at variance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

The majority of the Member States of the United Nations and other organizations have called for an end to the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba. Kenya believes in and upholds the principles of maintaining friendly relations, including commerce, among nations for the promotion of peace and security as indispensable ingredients for the social and economic advancement for all people.

Kiribati

[Original: English]
[31 May 2012]

The Republic of Kiribati observes that resolution 66/6 holds moral and humanitarian considerations that, when adopted, will positively contribute to improving the general welfare of the people of Cuba.

Kuwait

[Original: English]
[22 May 2012]

The State of Kuwait supports the implementation of the aforementioned resolution with an emphasis on the need to comply with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the sovereign equality of States and the non-interference in their internal affairs, as well as the freedom of international trade and navigation.

Furthermore, the State of Kuwait has always voted in favour of the resolutions of the General Assembly calling for the lifting of the United States embargo imposed on Cuba.

Kyrgyzstan

[Original: Russian]
[1 June 2012]

In accordance with the fundamental principles of international law, including the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, the Kyrgyz Republic has not promulgated or applied any laws or measures with extraterritorial effects that affect the sovereignty of other States.

Lao People's Democratic Republic

[Original: English]
[24 May 2012]

It is unfortunate that the embargo imposed by the United States of America over past years against Cuba, an independent and sovereignty country, continues to be in effect. Such an embargo, with its extraterritorial implications, has not only hindered the progress of Cuba in its socioeconomic development and caused untold suffering to its people, but has also violated the principles of international law and those of the sovereign equality of States and of freedom of international trade and navigation. As far as the Lao People's Democratic Republic is concerned, in adhering to and complying with all principles and purposes enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and international laws, it has neither promulgated nor introduced any laws or measures of the kind referred to in paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of resolution 66/6.

Lebanon

[Original: English]
[24 April 2012]

The Government of Lebanon fully complies with General Assembly resolution 66/6, in accordance with the principles of the United Nations and international law.

Lesotho

[Original: English]
[30 May 2012]

The Kingdom of Lesotho reaffirms its commitment to the provisions and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, which, inter alia, provide for the sovereign equality of States, non-intervention and non-interference in the internal affairs of other States and freedom of international trade and navigation.

The Kingdom of Lesotho is deeply concerned about the harmful effects of the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba. In this regard, Lesotho calls upon the United States of America to lift the embargo imposed against Cuba.

Liberia

[Original: English]
[4 June 2012]

Liberia reaffirms its support for the immediate ending of the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba. The Republic of Liberia, considering its obligations under the Charter, is against the promulgation or applications of laws, measures or acts that have extraterritorial effects on the sovereignty of other States.

The Permanent Mission of Liberia confirms that, in respect of the rights of States and the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, Liberia has not taken any measures that could impede the free and smooth flow of international trade and navigation.

Accordingly, the Government of Liberia will continue to support vigorous actions aimed at lifting the embargo.

Liechtenstein

[Original: English]
[16 April 2012]

The Government of the Principality of Liechtenstein has not promulgated or applied any laws or measures of the kind referred to in the preamble to resolution 66/6. The Government of the Principality of Liechtenstein is furthermore of the view that legislation whose implementation entails measures or regulations having extraterritorial effects is inconsistent with generally recognized principles of international law.

Madagascar

[Original: French]
[4 June 2012]

Pursuant to the principles of the sovereign equality of States and non-intervention in internal affairs that are enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, and in accordance with international law, which provides for freedom of trade and navigation, the Republic of Madagascar has always been in favour of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed on Cuba and maintains its solidarity with the other States Members of the United Nations. Moreover, the Government of Madagascar has never promulgated or applied any economic, commercial or financial laws or measures against the Republic of Cuba.

Malawi

[Original: English]
[16 July 2012]

The Government of the Republic of Malawi does not have any sanctions or embargo against the Government of Cuba. The Government of Malawi continues to enjoy excellent bilateral relations with the Government of Cuba through a Joint Permanent Commission of Cooperation and other multilateral forums such as the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

The Government of Malawi further wishes to reiterate its denunciation of the unilateral promulgation and application of repressive laws and regulations such as the "Helms-Burton Act" of 1996, which goes against the Charter of the United Nations which affirms the freedom of trade among nations. In this regard, the Government of Malawi joins the rest of the international community in calling for the lifting of the sanctions imposed on the Government of Cuba which have only served to perpetuate the suffering of the ordinary people of Cuba.

Malaysia

[Original: English]
[7 June 2012]

Consistent with the position of the Government of Malaysia on earlier General Assembly resolutions, Malaysia once again voted in favour of General Assembly resolution 66/6.

The Government of Malaysia remains fundamentally opposed to all forms of economic, commercial and financial sanctions and embargos that contradict the norms of international law and run counter to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the rules-based multilateral trading system. Such unilateral economic measures present an obstacle to the socioeconomic development of affected States.

In this connection, the Government of Malaysia reiterates its full support for the efforts of the international community, as contained in General Assembly resolution 66/6 and other relevant resolutions, and will continue to strive to strengthen its bilateral relations with Cuba.

Maldives

[Original: English]
[23 May 2012]

The Republic of Maldives does not impose any sanctions against any country without an explicit mandate from the General Assembly or the Security Council of the United Nations, or from international organizations of which the Maldives is a member. Accordingly, the Republic of Maldives has not imposed any sanctions on Cuba, nor has it enacted any laws or regulations that would contravene the provisions of General Assembly resolution 66/6.

Mali

[Original: French]
[29 May 2012]

The Government of the Republic of Mali has always voted in favour of the General Assembly resolution concerning the necessity of lifting the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba.

The Government of the Republic of Mali, which fully supports resolution 66/6, has not promulgated any laws or applied any measures of the kind referred to in the preamble of the said resolution.

As in the past, Mali maintains its position in favour of lifting the embargo imposed against Cuba.

Mauritania

[Original: English]
[27 June 2012]

The response of the Government of Mauritania to the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba, is resolution Assembly/AU/Res.1 (XVII), adopted by the Heads of State and Government of the African Union at the summit, held in Kampala on 27 July 2010, and recalled by the Assembly at its seventeenth ordinary session, held in Malabo on 30 June and 1 July 2011.

Mauritius

[Original: English]
[4 June 2012]

Mauritius has not promulgated any law or measure aimed at imposing unilateral economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba.

The Permanent Mission of Mauritius further wishes to add that trade relations do exist between Mauritius and Cuba. Although there has been a 41 per cent decrease in imports as compared to 2007 figures, Mauritius still imported MUR 2.8 million worth of goods from Cuba in 2011.

Mexico

[Original: Spanish]
[23 May 2012]

Mexico reiterates its firm rejection both of the application of unilateral laws or measures imposing an economic, commercial or other kind of embargo against any country, and of the use of coercive measures that have no legal basis in the Charter of the United Nations.

Mexico considers that political, economic or military sanctions may emanate only from a decision or recommendation formulated by the United Nations Security Council or General Assembly.

It is through the observance of international law and the rules and principles governing coexistence between nations, regardless of asymmetries or disparities, and through respectful dialogue that States are able to overcome their differences and ensure a climate of international peace.

The unilateral measures being applied extraterritorially in third countries are causing serious humanitarian consequences and are a clear contradiction of the objectives behind them. Furthermore, they entail the rejection of negotiation, diplomacy and dialogue as ideal ways to resolve disputes between States.

The Mexican State promulgated the Act on Protection of Trade and Investment against Foreign Norms which Violate International Law on 23 October 1996, which was designed to prohibit acts which affect trade or investment when such acts result from the extraterritorial effects of foreign laws.

The Mexican Government supports Cuba's inclusion in all regional integration organizations in order to promote economic and commercial exchange, cooperation and development.

The General Secretariat and a number of United Nations bodies and entities have drawn attention to the negative impact of the embargo on economic development, the Cuban population and third countries, owing to the difficulty of interacting with Cuba.

Mexico will continue to support Cuba's inclusion in the global mechanisms for dialogue and economic, commercial and financial exchange, in accordance with its own will and its sovereign decisions, in order to promote cooperation and development for the benefit of the Cuban people.

The Mexican Government supports all initiatives against the embargo and other unilateral measures in the General Assembly, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and other forums, such as the Organization of American States (OAS), the Latin American Economic System (SELA), the Ibero-American Summit and the Rio Group. President Felipe Calderón, during his visit to Cuba in April 2012, emphasized the importance of the active participation of the island in the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States.

Mexico reiterates its commitment to upholding international law and defending cooperation and negotiation as the best ways of settling disputes and ensuring peaceful coexistence between States.

Mexico and Cuba have signed Economic Complementarity Agreement No. 51 under the Montevideo Treaty of 1980, which will remain in effect indefinitely. During President Felipe Calderón's visit, a general negotiation framework for the expansion and strengthening of Economic Complementarity Agreement No. 51 was signed, through which both countries hoped to achieve better integration by adding new customs preferences and strengthening existing preferences.

In September 2011 the Mexican Government informed Cuba that it was interested in supporting the participation of Petróleos Mexicanos (PEMEX) in the exploration and exploitation of hydrocarbons in Cuba. During the presidential visit, the representatives of PEMEX Exploración y Producción and Unión Cuba Petróleo signed a non-binding letter of intent enabling PEMEX to assess the possibilities of participating and investing in the exploration and exploitation of hydrocarbons in Cuba, in the blocks contiguous with Mexico's exclusive economic zone, while fully respecting the sovereignty of both countries.

The Government of Mexico reiterates its firm commitment to contribute actively and decisively to the effectiveness of international law under this United Nations General Assembly agenda item.

Mongolia

[Original: English]
[31 May 2012]

The Government of Mongolia has neither promulgated nor applied any laws and measures of the kind referred to in the preamble to General Assembly resolution 66/6. Mongolia has consistently supported the aforementioned resolution and voted in its favour.

Montenegro

[Original: English]
[11 June 2012]

The Government of Montenegro has supported resolution 66/6 and reaffirms its commitment to the purpose and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. The Government of Montenegro has neither promulgated nor applied laws or measures of the kind referred to in the preamble to resolution 66/6 and is ready to further develop cooperation with Cuba at both the bilateral and multilateral levels.

Morocco

[Original: French]
[25 April 2012]

The Kingdom of Morocco reiterates its firm attachment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and to the cardinal principles of international law.

The Kingdom of Morocco has always favoured the development of friendly relations between the States Members of the United Nations.

Mozambique

[Original: English]
[19 March 2012]

The Republic of Mozambique has never promulgated, applied or contributed to the application of any of the laws or regulations mentioned in the said resolution. It was in this context that the Republic of Mozambique voted in favour of the aforementioned resolution, and it reiterates its unconditional support for its provisions, appealing to the United Nations to ensure that all Member States take the resolution into consideration.

Myanmar

[Original: English]
[6 July 2012]

Myanmar voted in favour of General Assembly resolution 66/6 in joining with the international community to bring an end to the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba.

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar strongly believes that the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba severely affects the Cuban people, especially the elderly and children. The negative impact on innocent people caused by the embargo is not only contrary to international law but also inconsistent with the practice of international commerce and trade.

In this context, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar will promulgate neither laws nor regulations which would hamper the freedom of trade and navigation of a sovereign Member State of the United Nations.

Namibia

[Original: English]
[16 May 2012]

The Government of the Republic of Namibia upholds the principle of peaceful coexistence of nations, respects the sovereign equality of States, and believes in fair and open trade among nations. The embargo imposed on Cuba and its people by the United States is contrary to the fundamental principles of international law, the Charter of the United Nations, and the regulations of the World Trade Organization.

Namibia remains concerned about the promulgation and the application of all laws and measures constituting an economic, commercial or financial embargo against Cuba, especially the extraterritorial nature of such laws and measures. Since the attainment of its independence, Namibia has taken steps to strengthen trade relations with Cuba. In 1991, the two countries established an intergovernmental joint commission on economic, scientific, trade, educational and cultural cooperation. Since its inception, the commission has met biannually, and it will meet again in 2013 for its thirteenth session in Havana.

Bilateral relations between Namibia and Cuba continue to be excellent, and thus the Government remains committed to the necessity of an immediate end to all sanctions imposed by the United States of America against Cuba. We believe that the measures imposed against Cuba have serious negative implications for the overall development and well-being of the Cuban population. Namibia strongly supports General Assembly resolution 66/6 and calls for an immediate and unconditional lifting of the embargo against the Republic of Cuba, in conformity with the obligations under the Charter of the United Nations. Every year we have made statements of support in the General Assembly calling for the lifting of the embargo against the people of Cuba, and we will continue to do so.

Nauru

[Original: English]
[5 June 2012]

The Government of Nauru once again affirms its strong opposition to the imposition of unilateral measures on States for political purposes that are at variance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law. Furthermore, Nauru has not promulgated or applied laws or measures against Cuba that would prohibit economic, commercial or financial relations between the Republic of Nauru and the Republic of Cuba.

The Government of Nauru is committed to the decisions of General Assembly resolution 66/6 of 25 October 2011.

Nepal

[Original: English]
[12 June 2012]

The Government of Nepal has further adhered to the provision of General Assembly resolution 66/6 and has not promulgated or applied any laws or measures contrary to the resolution.

New Zealand

[Original: English]
[29 May 2012]

The Government of New Zealand reaffirms its position in support of General Assembly resolution 66/6. The Government of New Zealand has consistently supported General Assembly resolutions calling for an end to the trade embargo against Cuba. New Zealand has no trade or economic legislation or measures that restrict or discourage trade or investment to or from Cuba.

Nicaragua

[Original: Spanish]
[17 May 2012]

The Government of Nicaragua, in accordance with the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, reaffirms once more its unwavering respect for the sovereign equality of States, the principle of non-intervention and non-interference in internal affairs, and the freedom of international trade and navigation, as set forth in various international instruments, as well as the right of every State to choose, as it wishes, its own social, political and economic development system free from outside interference. Accordingly, we condemn and reject the implementation of these unilateral extraterritorial coercive measures.

Nicaragua reiterates once again that it has not enacted, and will not enact, any laws affecting the economic, commercial or financial rights of the fraternal people and Government of Cuba, and has not implemented any measures that might impose restrictions on trade with Cuba, since this would contravene the purposes of General Assembly resolution 66/6. Nicaraguan legislation does not acknowledge the validity of coercive extraterritorial measures and we thus condemn and reject the implementation of such measures.

The Government of Nicaragua is continuing to strengthen further its political, economic, commercial and development cooperation ties with the people and Government of Cuba both at the bilateral level and through the various existing cooperation and integration mechanisms in the Latin American and Caribbean region, in particular the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America-Peoples' Trade Agreement, PetroCaribe and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC).

The people and Government of Cuba have substantially increased their unrestricted assistance to the Nicaraguan people, particularly in the areas of health and education.

The response of our Cuban brothers to this cruel and devastating embargo has been one of solidarity and internationalism, including the sending of more doctors and educators, more cooperation in solidarity and more fair trade, as a contribution to the full development of all the peoples of the world; it is a true example of how cooperative relations between States should be.

That is why CELAC, during its first summit meeting, has not only expressed its full support for and solidarity with the people and Government of Cuba, and condemned this disgraceful embargo, but has also elected Cuba to represent us, as President of the 2013 CELAC summit meeting to be held in Havana in 2013.

In addition, Nicaragua reiterates its condemnation of the horrific injustice and double standards of the United States of America against the five anti-terrorist Cuban heroes whose only crime has been to prevent more deaths of innocent Cubans and foreigners in Cuba at the hands of terrorist forces based in United States territory.

Nicaragua is also concerned that although this embargo has been overwhelmingly condemned year after year by the United Nations General Assembly, the United States Government has reinforced the Helms-Burton Act witn new measures, such as Act 959, signed in Florida, United States of America, which prohibits firms that do business with Cuba from accessing public funds and allows for the breaching of existing contracts by United States firms having commercial ties with Cuba.

Likewise, it is deplorable that the United States Department of the Treasury has announced that the violation of travel restrictions to Cuba will be punished with fines of $65,000 and even the suspension of licences, among other actions.

Nicaragua reiterates its emphatic rejection and condemnation of the continuance and tightening of the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed against Cuba by the United States of America, which not only fails to contribute to the requisite climate of dialogue and cooperation that should prevail in international relations between sovereign States but also constitutes the principal obstacle to the development of this fraternal country and its attempts to maintain its major economic and social achievements, and is a violation, in turn, of the Cuban people's human rights.

Niger

[Original: French]
[16 May 2012]

The Government of the Republic of the Niger is deeply committed to respecting the principles of the sovereign equality of States, non-intervention in internal affairs and freedom of international trade and navigation, as established in the Charter of the United Nations and in international law, and has taken no measure that conflicts with the resolution.

To the contrary, the Republic of the Niger and the Republic of Cuba have maintained good cooperative relations since 1994, the year in which the General Agreement on Cooperation between the two countries was signed. Since then, the scope of this cooperation and the activities covered by it have evolved and expanded. The two countries regularly hold bilateral consultations, thereby attesting to the political will of their leaders to strengthen the ties of cooperation and solidarity between them, for the benefit of their peoples.

The Government of the Niger considers that each country and each people are legitimately entitled to define freely their own development model, with the same opportunities for success, in conformity with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

For all the above reasons, the Republic of the Niger supports the fraternal Republic of Cuba in its campaign to secure the lifting of the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed against it by the United States of America.

Nigeria

[Original: English]
[4 June 2012]

The Federal Government of Nigeria maintains friendly relations with all States and does not favour unilateral measures to settle political disputes. Consequently, the Federal Government reiterates its support for ending the embargo against Cuba.

Norway

[Original: English]
[30 April 2012]

The Government of Norway reaffirms its position in favour of resolution 66/6.

Norway does not promulgate or apply laws and measures referred to in resolution 66/6. Norway does not apply trade or economic legislation against Cuba that restricts or discourages trade or investment to or from Cuba. On the contrary, Norway is in favour of increased cooperation with all parts of Cuban society, including commercial relations.

Oman

[Original: English]
[6 July 2012]

The Government of the Sultanate of Oman confirms its commitment to the full implementation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, including the principles established by the World Trade Organization in the context of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 66/6.

Pakistan

[Original: English]
[20 April 2012]

Pakistan is fully in observance of resolution 66/6.

Panama

[Original: Spanish]
[5 July 2012]

The Government of Panama, from the beginning of its diplomatic relations with the Government of Cuba, has expressed its interest in and commitment to maintaining and strengthening the ties of friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

In their diplomatic relations to date, Panama and Cuba have signed 22 agreements that remain fully in force, of which 14 are inter-institutional agreements in different areas of cooperation, including combating drug trafficking, basic cooperation, cooperation in the cultural and educational fields, lifting of visa requirements for diplomatic passports, political consultation mechanisms, mutual recognition of higher education, air service agreements, a partial trade agreement, and an agreement for legal assistance in criminal cases.

Panama and Cuba are also in negotiations to establish other cooperation instruments, including a draft agreement for the reciprocal promotion and protection of investments, a draft agreement to prevent double taxation on the operation of aircrafts, a collaboration and technical assistance agreement between the Panamanian State Radio and Television System and the Cuban Radio and Television Institute, a treaty concerning sanctioned persons, and expansion of the partial agreement.

Panama has historically condemned the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed against Cuba by the United States of America, as demonstrated by Panama's support of resolution 66/6 adopted at the United Nations General Assembly session held in September 2011, and its position in support of various resolutions adopted earlier by the General Assembly, and in other regional and international forums.

Panama believes that the dialogue and discussion aimed at finding the best solution to the problem for the Cuban people should continue, on the basis of the principles of international law and the Charter of the United Nations. Panama believes that the application of coercive unilateral measures is contrary to international law and undermines the exercise of the economic, social and cultural rights of peoples.

Panama will continue to support all the efforts that are being made to put an end to the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

Papua New Guinea

[Original: English]
[18 May 2012]

Papua New Guinea reiterates its position that it has never promulgated or applied laws and measures of the kind referred to in the preamble to resolution 66/6.

Papua New Guinea has consistently voted in favour of General Assembly resolutions on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed on Cuba.

Papua New Guinea believes that the promulgation and the application by Member States of laws and regulations with extraterritorial effects on the sovereignty of other States and legitimate interests of entities or persons under their jurisdiction, as well as the freedom of trade and navigation, are not in conformity with obligations that Member States have assumed under the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

Paraguay

[Original: Spanish]
[17 May 2012]

The Republic of Paraguay is fully in compliance with resolution 66/6 and joins the nearly unanimous rejection of the embargo, reiterating its position against such measures and expressing its strong support for Cuba's call for an end to the embargo.

Paraguay especially deplores the profound impact of the embargo on the Cuban people resulting from unilateral positive laws that affect free trade and the transparent conduct of international commerce. It therefore stresses the pressing need to end the embargo.

Paraguay has consistently supported the relevant General Assembly resolutions calling for an end to the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba and has repeatedly expressed its opposition thereto, as have the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean and others that have called for an immediate end to the embargo.

In this regard, Paraguay draws attention to the resolutions, communiqués and declarations issued by multilateral, regional and subregional organizations concerning this issue, which reject the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba, especially its effects on the Cuban people, and demand an end to the embargo.

Paraguayan legislation does not recognize the extraterritorial application of domestic laws, a practice that infringes the sovereignty of other States and undermines the principles of international law.

As for foreign policy, Paraguay, as one of the founding States of the United Nations, defends and embraces the constitutional principles that govern its international relations, as enshrined in article 143 of the national constitution: national independence, self-determination of peoples, juridical equality of States, international solidarity and cooperation, protection of human rights, freedom of navigation in international waters, non-intervention, and condemnation of any form of dictatorship, colonialism or imperialism.

Paraguay maintains a foreign policy favourable to free trade and navigation, in accordance with the relevant multilateral arrangements.

Paraguay also upholds Article 1, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations (Chapter I, Purposes and Principles), which calls for friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, and the general principles of international law, given that the extraterritorial application of domestic laws infringes the sovereignty of other States and jeopardizes the juridical equality of States and the principle of non-intervention, while also affecting freedom of international trade and navigation.

In the United Nations, Paraguay has consistently supported the relevant General Assembly resolutions calling for an end to the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba and has repeatedly expressed its opposition thereto, as have the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean and others that have called for an immediate end to the embargo.

Peru

[Original: Spanish]
[14 May 2012]

Peru remains fully committed to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, and in particular to the principles of the sovereign equality of States non-intervention and non-interference in their internal affairs and freedom of international trade and navigation.

Peru deems that the extraterritorial application of domestic laws demonstrated by the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed against Cuba constitutes a unilateral act contrary to the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the basic principles of the multilateral trading system.

Since 1992, when Peru voted in favour of resolution 47/19, submitted by Cuba for adoption by the United Nations General Assembly, the Government has consistently voted in favour of related resolutions.

In this regard, Peru has neither promulgated nor applied any laws or regulations that could affect the sovereignty of other States or freedom of trade and navigation.

Peru believes that these enforcement measures affect Cuba's economic growth and restrict its social and human development. The Government of Peru expresses its profound concern about the adverse effects thereof on the Cuban people's quality of life and well-being, especially with regard to food supply, health and other essential welfare services, including being denied access to private credit, food, medicine, technology and other materials needed for the development of Cuba.

Peru continues to promote trade and economic exchange with Cuba, consistently opposing the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed against it. Bilateral trade, though in its infancy, has multiplied by more than five times in the past eight years, and the air flight connections between Lima and Havana have grown considerably: the number of flights has increased to 21 times a week, according to Peruvian aeronautical authorities, which indicates that there will be not only a considerable wave of tourists from South America to Cuba but also an opportunity to further strengthen the bilateral trade relationship.

In conclusion, Peru deems the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba to be inconsistent with the dynamic regional policy that has recently been marked by the return of Cuba to dialogue and cooperation forums in the Americas.

Philippines

[Original: English]
[15 May 2012]

In support of the resolution, the Philippines maintains active relations with Cuba, particularly in the areas of academic and cultural cooperation. Both countries are exploring the expansion of cooperation to other areas (for example, agriculture, biotechnology, maritime matters, news information exchange, public health, sports, trade and investment). The current active areas are the following:

- *Education*: The Cuban Government annually provides university scholarship grants in medicine to Filipino students. Cuba invites Philippine education officials to international education conferences held in Havana.
- *Culture*: Both countries foster mutual cultural understanding through the showcasing of the other's exemplary works in arts, book and film festivals.
- *Political cooperation*: The Philippines supported various petitions of Cuba to the United Nations, including the lifting of the United States embargo and the cessation of the United States broadcast of message signals to Cuba without the Cuban Government's consent.
- *Cooperation against illegal drugs*: The Philippines and Cuba are working towards cooperation against the trafficking of narcotics and chemical precursors.
- *Trade*: Despite the unilateral United States embargo against Cuba, the Philippines maintains regular trade with Cuba.

The Philippines wishes to reiterate that it has not imposed, nor does it intend to impose, any law, regulation or measure contrary to resolution 66/6.

Qatar

[Original: English]
[7 May 2012]

The Government of the State of Qatar supports resolution 66/6, which aims to end the embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba.

Russian Federation

[Original: Russian]
[17 May 2012]

Russia, together with the overwhelming majority of members of the international community, strongly condemns the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States of America against Cuba. We consider the maintenance of such an embargo to be an outdated relic of the cold war.

The sanctions that have been in place for half a century have clearly demonstrated their inability to influence the Cuban people in their sovereign choice of a model of development. Their sole consequences have been the worsening of the living conditions of the Cuban people, the creation of artificial barriers to the growth of the country's economy and encroachment upon the interests of third countries.

We expect that the decisions by the United States Government to relax some aspects of the blockade regime (in particular, to abolish some of the restrictions on visits by United States citizens to their relatives in Cuba and on the sending of monetary and postal transfers) will be followed by other actions in order to lift the blockade once and for all.

We are convinced that the lifting of sanctions and the subsequent normalization of relations between Cuba and the United States will contribute to improving the situation of the Republic of Cuba and will facilitate implementation of the ambitious programme of social and economic reform that began on the island in 2011 and will modernize the economy and raise the standard of living of the population.

Guided by the fundamental principles of the Charter of the United Nations concerning the inadmissibility of any discriminatory measures or interference in the internal affairs of States, we have consistently called for the earliest repeal of this embargo and in general for the rejection of political pressure and coercion that exacerbate a confrontational approach to international relations.

Rwanda

[Original: English]
[13 April 2012]

Rwanda reaffirms its commitment to the purpose and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and has neither promulgated nor applied laws or measures of the kind referred to in the preamble to General Assembly resolution 66/6.

Saint Kitts and Nevis

[Original: English]
[29 June 2012]

Very early as a young nation, Saint Kitts and Nevis established diplomatic relations with the Republic of Cuba, signalling the value placed on the latter as an esteemed and vibrant partner in the region as well as in the global community. Our proximity and shared identity made the relationship inevitable. Almost three decades later, the relationship remains stronger than ever. This bond, which has deepened over the years, is built upon the premise of mutual respect for the sovereignty and the political right of the citizenry to define their governing systems.

In light of the fraternal bonds between us, and bound by our steadfast commitment to the Charter of the United Nations and other international legal instruments that discourage actions in contravention of the very principles they promote, Saint Kitts and Nevis has not promulgated or applied any laws with any extraterritorial effect on Cuba and preventing free navigation and trade. Rather, bilaterally and multilaterally, it continues to seek collaborative means of achieving common goals and ideals. This manner of interaction has only yielded social and economic benefits to these nations and thus, Saint Kitts and Nevis endeavours to continue along this vein, holding fast to its belief in the sovereign equality of States, and non-interference in their internal affairs.

It is disheartening that although for the 20th consecutive year, the resolution calling for the United States to end its embargo against Cuba has received overwhelming support by a large majority of the international community, the sanctions are maintained. For more than half a century, this unilateral initiative has stunted the growth of the Cuban economy and has affected the social and economic development of its people.

Saint Kitts and Nevis reiterates the call upon the United States of America to withdraw sanctions against Cuba, which persist in presenting devastating socioeconomic challenges for the main resource of Cuba, its people. Saint Kitts and Nevis together with other Caribbean Community members in the Declaration of Port of Spain in December 2011, during the fourth CARICOM-Cuba summit, again used the opportunity to urge the United States to lift with immediate effect the unjust economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed against the Republic of Cuba.

Saint Lucia

[Original: English]
[22 May 2012]

Saint Lucia, in compliance with international legal obligations, and in compliance with the commitment to the principles of the sovereign equality of States, has not promulgated any law, legislation or measure, or taken any other action that would contravene the exercise of sovereignty by a Member State in its lawful interests, or obstruct the freedom of commercial activity, trade or economic cooperation.

The Government of Saint Lucia reiterates the consistent economic, educational, scientific and technical cooperation between Cuba and Saint Lucia in furtherance of socioeconomic advancement and sustainability.

Saint Lucia reiterates its position on the extraterritorial application of national legislation and considers it to be contrary to the principles of international law, the sovereign equality of States, non-interference in the internal affairs of States and peaceful coexistence among nations.

The Government of Saint Lucia has consistently supported the relevant General Assembly resolutions calling for an end to the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

[Original: English]
[8 May 2012]

The Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines strongly opposes the extraterritorial application of national legislation that demonstrates disregard for the sovereignty of States. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines views such actions as contrary to the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the principles of sovereign equality, peaceful coexistence and non-interference in the internal affairs of other States.

The Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines does not apply unilateral economic measures as a means of political or economic coercion against other States. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has no laws that in any way restrict the freedom of trade, navigation, economic cooperation or other commercial activity with Cuba. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines enjoys very friendly relations with Cuba, and continues to engage in solidarity with the Government and people of Cuba through a variety of constructive, cooperative and mutually beneficial partnerships.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has consistently and unreservedly voted in favour of the General Assembly resolution on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines expresses its continued concern at the hardship and human suffering caused by the ongoing imposition of the embargo against Cuba, despite overwhelming international support for multiple resolutions that have called for an end to this blockade.

Samoa

[Original: English]
[4 June 2012]

The Government of the Independent State of Samoa, in accordance with the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and international law, affirms that it has not promulgated or applied any laws and measures that affect the sovereignty of other States.

San Marino

[Original: English]
[17 April 2012

The Republic of San Marino has always and generally been against any imposition of any embargo and therefore it is against the imposition of the unilateral embargo against Cuba as a mean of pressure and because of the serious repercussions on the populations.

Sao Tome and Principe

[Original: English]
[4 July 2012]

The Government of the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe affirms the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, multilateralism in international relations, the fundamental principle of free trade and other international legal instruments.

The Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principle condemns any unilateral decision that seeks to restrict the economic, commercial and financial freedom of States. In this case these coercive measures impeding social and human development had a direct impact on the Cuban people and especially on the most vulnerable sectors of society, affecting Cuba's economic growth.

In manifesting the excellent relations of cooperation and friendship with Cuba, the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe has always voted in favour of the resolution against the embargo, and once again renews its support for resolution 66/6.

The Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe welcomes the decision taken by the United States in 2009 and encourages both the United States and Cuba to seek in a peaceful and neighbouring spirit solutions to improve relations in order to strengthen peace and cooperation all over the world.

Senegal

[Original: French]
[19 June 2012]

As it does every year, the United Nations General Assembly will consider, at its sixty-seventh session, the report of the Secretary-General and the draft resolution on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba.

In accordance with its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations, and in keeping with its position on the matter, the Republic of Senegal calls for an immediate end to the embargo, whose adverse effects on the people can no longer be called into question.

This embargo, unilaterally imposed for decades by a State Member of the United Nations against another sovereign State that is also a Member of the

Organization, runs counter to the purposes and principles of the Charter and is, by any measure, counterproductive in that it deprives innocent people of their fundamental rights as enshrined in the Preamble to the Charter and in all relevant human rights instruments.

Senegal has always supported and voted in favour of the aforementioned resolution because it is deeply convinced that this unilaterally imposed embargo is contrary to the virtues of dialogue and consultation promoted by the United Nations as a means of strengthening understanding and mutual trust among nations.

Serbia

[Original: English]
[11 April 2012]

Serbia, reaffirming its fundamental commitment to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the rules of international law, has neither promulgated nor applied laws, regulations, measures or acts that have extraterritorial effect or affect the sovereignty of any other Member State, as stipulated in the preamble to General Assembly resolution 66/6.

The Republic of Serbia has consistently supported the aforementioned resolution in the General Assembly and voted in its favour in this regard. While sharing the expressed desire of the overwhelming majority of the United Nations Member States, the Republic of Serbia calls for an end to the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba.

Seychelles

[Original: English]
[12 June 2012

The Government of the Republic of Seychelles once again fully endorses the content of General Assembly resolution 66/6, entitled "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba", adopted on 25 October 2011.

The significance of the embargo on the Cuban economy continues to be of great concern to the world community, and its humanitarian impact on the Cuban people, especially in the health care and food areas, is particularly saddening.

Those consequences are exacerbated by the adverse effects of the global economic and financial, energy and food crises that seriously compromise Cuba's efforts to further improve its level of development. The blockade continues to cause irreparable damage to the economic, social and cultural development of Cuba, as it deprives its people of their rightful opportunities emanating from free trade.

As a fellow island nation, Seychelles also recognizes the particularly crucial role that trade plays in island development, as island societies are often more likely to be import dependent and are 12 times more vulnerable to fuel price shocks.

The embargo not only contravenes the fundamental norms of international humanitarian law and the principles of multilateralism, but it is also contrary to both the letter and the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations and the Millennium Declaration.

Seychelles rejects the imposition of laws and regulations with extraterritorial impact and all other forms of coercive economic measures, and calls on States to refrain from applying such measures as they affect the sovereignty of other States, the legitimate interests of entities under their jurisdiction and the freedom of trade and navigation.

Much has changed since the embargo was initially imposed. Globalization has created conditions for true global solidarity and partnership among nations. Lifting the embargo would be in keeping with the spirit of the times.

Sierra Leone

[Original: English]
[24 May 2012]

Consistent with its obligation under the Charter of the United Nations and international law, Sierra Leone has neither promulgated nor applied any laws or measures of the kind referred to in the preamble of resolution 66/6. Sierra Leone has consistently supported the resolution and is convinced that the lifting of the discriminatory trade practice and the extraterritorial application of domestic law would not only help to alleviate the socioeconomic condition of the Cuban people, but also promote dialogue, good neighbourliness and cooperation among States.

Singapore

[Original: English]
[30 May 2012]

The Government of Singapore reaffirms its support of General Assembly resolution 66/6. Singapore has consistently supported resolutions calling for an end to the United States trade embargo on Cuba since 1995 and voted in their favour.

Solomon Islands

[Original: English]
[8 May 2012]

Solomon Islands remains saddened to see remnants of the cold war persist to this day and age. The United States of America's economic, commercial and financial embargo on the Government and people of Cuba continues to place the children and people of Cuba in a difficult situation. Solomon Islands calls for the unconditional lifting of the blockade in line with the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations, and international law and in the name of the people of the world.

Solomon Islands acknowledges the spirit, the resilience and the generosity of the Government and people of Cuba in educating, sheltering and clothing children from a multitude of States who are studying there despite the imposed hardship.

Somalia

[Original: English]
[12 June 2012]

Somalia has no laws or measures of the kind referred to in the preamble to resolution 66/6, in conformity with obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and international law, which, inter alia, reaffirm the freedom of trade and navigation.

South Africa

[Original: English]
[4 June 2012]

The question of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba has been and continues to be a persistent problem for the United Nations despite many calls for its elimination.

The continued embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba is a flagrant violation of the principle of the sovereign equality of States, non-intervention and non-interference in each other's domestic affairs. Further to this, the blockade constitutes a violation of international law and its imposition shows disregard for the noble principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

The situation is further aggravated by the global financial and economic crisis, the energy crisis and the food crisis, as well as challenges of climate change that have affected many countries, including Cuba. The embargo directly hinders the Cuban economic recovery, and negatively impacts trade, tourism, foreign direct investments and currency transfers. The damages caused to the Cuban economy are estimated to exceed US$ 975 billion.

It is against this backdrop therefore that South Africa has repeatedly joined the majority of countries in expressing opposition to all aspects of this blockade and the unilateral action by the United States of America.

South Africa will continue to explore ways to provide support to Cuba. To this end, South Africa agreed in 2010 to write off a total of R 1.1 billion debt owed by Cuba.

The agreement on the matter of economic assistance to Cuba was signed in February 2012 and ratified by the National Assembly in May 2012. In an attempt to grow trade and agricultural cooperation with Cuba, South Africa has offered a credit line of US$ 10 million to Cuba. This would be a breakthrough in relations and cooperation and would reaffirm South Africa's commitment and ongoing support for Cuba.

The international community recognizes Cuba's outstanding work in the areas of health, education and biotechnology in Latin America, the Caribbean, Africa and the underdeveloped world in particular and the world in general. A total of 321 South Africans who have graduated from Cuba are working as medical doctors in various South African hospitals and a further 408 South African students are currently studying medicine in Cuba. The embargo stifles this outstanding contribution to economic and social development and hinders the betterment of the lives of the poor.

Therefore South Africa supports the lifting of the embargo of the United States of America against Cuba and refrains from recognizing the unilateral measures and laws of a coercive nature that defy the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and norms of international law.

South Sudan

[Original: English]
[31 July 2012]

The Republic of South Sudan expresses its profound concern at the continuation of the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba. In line with the majority of Member States of the United Nations, the Republic of South Sudan calls for the lifting of the embargo endured by the Cuban people for over half a century. The Republic of South Sudan considers that the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed against Cuba is a unilateral act contrary to the principles of international law enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the basic principles of the multilateral trading system. The Republic of South Sudan considers that these coercive measures are affecting Cuba's economic growth and impeding its social and human development.

Sri Lanka

[Original: English]
[27 April 2012]

Sri Lanka does not approve of the use of unilateral economic measures against any country that are inconsistent with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law. Sri Lanka believes that the implementation of such measures impedes the rule of law and transparency of international trade and the freedom of trade and navigation.

Sri Lanka has not promulgated any laws or measures referred to in the preamble to resolution 66/6.

Sri Lanka has continuously supported the adoption of this resolution in the General Assembly and taken the position that the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba needs to be ended.

Sudan

[Original: English]
[14 May 2012]

The Government of the Republic of the Sudan pursues a policy that respects the principles of the sovereign equality of States and non-interference in the internal affairs of others. Consistent with its principled stand, the Sudan opposes the imposition of sanctions on developing countries for their devastating impact on the efforts of those countries to achieve sustainable development and because they constitute a violation of the Charter of the United Nations to that effect, the delegation of the Sudan participates every year in the debate of the General Assembly on the agenda item and votes, with the majority of Member States, in favour of General Assembly resolutions prohibiting the imposition of such unilateral measures and sanctions. The Government of the Republic of the Sudan reaffirms that it does not promulgate or apply any laws or measures that could, by being applied outside its own national borders, affect the sovereignty of any State. The Government of the Republic of the Sudan calls for the repeal of laws that impose such measures.

On the basis of the foregoing, the Sudan opposes the economic and commercial embargo imposed by the United States against Cuba, which has caused great damage and suffering to the Cuban people and violated its legitimate rights and interest, being a flagrant violation of international law and the Charter of the United Nations and showing disregard for their lofty and noble principles.

The Sudan itself continues to suffer from the unilateral economic sanctions imposed on it by the United States of America since November 1997. Such unilateral sanctions are in violation of the legitimate right of the Sudan and Cuba and all developing countries and their people to choose their own political, economic, and social system that fully respond to their aspirations.

Since the adoption of this General Assembly resolution, the Government of the Republic of the Sudan has put the issue at the forefront of the multilateral system to mobilize support for the elimination of all forms of unilateral coercive economic measures on developing countries.

The Sudan is increasingly promoting its bilateral relations with the Republic of Cuba. In this regard, the Joint Ministerial Commission between the Sudan and Cuba was convened from May 2007 to June 2007 in Havana, and the Sudan's delegation was headed by the Minister of International Cooperation along with other high-ranking officials. The Joint Ministerial Commission is the mechanism embodying all sectors of cooperation between the two countries. As means of fostering bilateral ties and combating the negative effects of the embargo, the Joint Ministerial Commission is expected to enhance and consolidate relations between the Sudan and Cuba in all fields.

A step in bilateral relations between the two countries was taken when the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations was accredited as Ambassador to Cuba in December 2007. Furthermore, the bilateral relations between the two countries have been accomplished as a result of visits of senior officials to both countries.

The Sudan participated at the ministerial level in the ministerial meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement Coordinating Bureau held in Havana from 27 to 30 April 2009, and called in its statement for the immediate end of the embargo against Cuba. In its bilateral meeting with the Cuban officials the Sudan reiterated its commitment to enhancing bilateral relations with Cuba in all fields.

Suriname

[Original: English]
[29 May 2012]

The Government of the Republic of Suriname remains committed to the purposes and principles as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and to upholding the principles of international law. In this regard, the unilateral enforcement of the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba is contrary to the Charter of the United Nations and international law. Suriname therefore reiterates its call for ending this embargo.

Furthermore, the Government of the Republic of Suriname is of the considered view that sovereign equality, non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries and other relevant norms governing international relations should be respected at all times.

Swaziland

[Original: English]
[29 June 2012]

The Kingdom of Swaziland reaffirms its support for efforts aimed at ending the blockade against Cuba and hopes that the Cuban people will be able to rely on the support of the international community in their legitimate demand that the blockade imposed on them by the United States be lifted and that Cuba will enjoy all the freedoms, rights and privileges enjoyed by all sovereign nation states without any hindrance.

The Kingdom of Swaziland views the continued imposition of an economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba as a violation of the principles of the sovereign equality of States, non-intervention and non-interference in each other's domestic affairs. In addition to being unilateral and contrary to the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations and to the principle of good neighbourliness, the embargo has caused huge material losses and economic damage to the people of Cuba. The blockade has not only caused incalculable suffering to the people of Cuba but also undermines the legitimate economic interests of third countries.

In line with all previous United Nations resolutions on this item, among others, the Kingdom of Swaziland believes that constructive dialogue is necessary to foster mutual trust and understanding as well as harmony and peaceful coexistence among all nations of the world.

The Kingdom of Swaziland will never cease to support any draft resolution before the General Assembly on this agenda item.

Syrian Arab Republic

[Original: Arabic]
[1 June 2012]

1. Proceeding from its position of principle in respect of the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba, and on the basis of the right of peoples to pursue all legitimate means to protect and strengthen their economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development, as enshrined in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Syrian Arab Republic voted in favour of General Assembly resolution 66/6, which emphasized the need for compliance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and reaffirms the principles of the sovereign equality of States, non-intervention in their internal affairs and freedom of international trade and navigation. In the resolution, the Assembly also calls upon States to take the necessary measures to end as soon as possible the economic, commercial and financial embargo that has been imposed against Cuba for more than three decades.

2. In this regard, the Syrian Arab Republic notes that economic embargo is one of the forms of illegitimate political blackmail to which the United States resorts in order to bring about changes in popular regimes in certain countries, in complete contravention of the concept of democracy in international relations and the principle of the universality and indivisibility of human rights. The Syrian Arab Republic recalls the communiqué of the Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries at their conference, held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, from 11 to 16 July 2009, in which they called upon the United States to put an end to the embargo against Cuba, which, in addition to being unilateral and contrary to the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the principle of neighbourliness, is causing huge material losses and economic damage to the people of Cuba. The Heads of State or Government once again urged strict compliance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and expressed deep concern over the widening of the extraterritorial nature of the embargo against Cuba and over the continuous new legislative measures geared towards intensifying it.

3. The Syrian Arab Republic also recalls the relevant Human Rights Council resolutions regarding unilateral coercive measures, the most recent of which was Human Rights Council resolution 15/24 of 1 October 2010. That resolution expressed concern at the negative impact of such unilateral coercive measures on the realization of the rights set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, including the right to development, and on international relations, trade, investment and cooperation. It also condemned the continued unilateral application and enforcement by the United States of such measures as tools of political or economic pressure in an effort to reintroduce colonialism in a new guise, particularly against developing countries that are upholding fairness, justice, their self-determination, the will of their peoples and their territorial unity and integrity.

4. The Syrian Arab Republic also refers to the Declaration adopted by the South Summit of the Group of 77 and China, held in Doha, in which the participants categorically rejected laws and regulations with extraterritorial impact and all other forms of coercive economic measures, and expressed grave concern over the impact of economic sanctions on the development capacity of the targeted countries. The

Summit also adopted a special appeal from all the leaders of the developing countries for the immediate lifting of this embargo, given that it is causing the Cuban people enormous material losses and inflicting huge economic damage, in addition to being a unilateral measure and in contravention of the Charter, international law and the principle of good-neighbourliness.

5. The international community has frequently stated that it rejects the maintenance of the sanctions unilaterally imposed on Cuba and the Helms-Burton Act, which exceeds the jurisdiction of national legislation and encroaches on the sovereignty of other States that deal with Cuba. This is incompatible with the principle of the sovereign equality of States. Experience has shown that, for the most part, sanction regimes have caused enormous material damage and major economic losses for the civilian inhabitants of the countries targeted, especially in such vital sectors as health and nutrition. They undermine the capacities of developing countries to realize sustainable development and achieve the Millennium Development Goals, and they are incompatible with the principles of liberalization of commercial exchange and non-discrimination that constitute the cornerstone of World Trade Organization agreements.

6. Accordingly, the Syrian Arab Republic calls for an end to the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba. This would help to create a positive climate in international relations and enhance the role of international legitimacy in safeguarding the principle of the sovereign equality of States.

Tajikistan

[Original: English]
[22 May 2012]

The Government of Tajikistan reaffirms its position in support of General Assembly resolution 66/6. Tajikistan is committed to the principles of international law and supports the fundamental rights of nations to freely choose their own ways of development. Taking into account, among other principles, the sovereign equality of States, non-intervention and non-interference in their internal affairs and freedom of international trade, Tajikistan believes that such economic, commercial and financial measures against Cuba continue to adversely affect the living conditions and human rights of the Cuban people and hamper the efforts of the Government of Cuba to achieve internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

Furthermore, given that the international community is facing major challenges such as the global financial and economic crisis and the resulting increase in poverty, unemployment and malnutrition, the imposition of embargoes and sanctions will be more unjustifiable than ever and deserve appropriate reactions at the global level.

Such actions are contrary to the principles of international law, the sovereign equality of States, non-interference in the internal affairs of States and peaceful coexistence among States.

Tajikistan enjoys friendly diplom[illegible]nd economic relations with Cuba. Tajikistan will continue to undertake fu[illegible]sures to strengthen cooperation and develop friendly relations with Cuba.

Thailand

[Original: English]
[2 June 2012]

In principle, Thailand does not support the imposition by one country of its national law on another country, which, in effect, compels a third country to comply with it. In Thailand's view, such an act would be contrary to the fundamental principles of international law and the Charter of the United Nations.

Thailand has maintained no legal provisions or domestic measures of such nature.

Thailand firmly believes in, among other principles, the sovereign equality of States, non-intervention and non-interference, and the freedom of trade and navigation. Any economic or political exercise should be achieved through voluntary and constructive cooperation, in conformity with the principles of international law and the Charter. States should respect and adhere to these principles, and work together to forge closer cooperation for common security and prosperity.

The trade volume between Thailand and Cuba is still minimal but in an upward trend. The total value of exports to Cuba has doubly increased, from $2.1 million in 2010 to $4.3 million in 2011. The total value of imports from Cuba has continuously increased during the past four years.

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

[Original: English]
[9 July 2012]

The Republic of Macedonia fully implements resolution 66/6.

Timor-Leste

[Original: English]
[9 July 2012]

The Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste adheres fully to the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, in particular, the principles of sovereign equality of States, non-intervention and non-interference in their internal affairs and freedom of international trade and navigation.

In this regard, the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste reaffirms its position in support of General Assembly resolution 66/6 and reiterates that it has not promulgated or applied any laws or measures referred to therein.

The Government of Timor-Leste is opposed to the continued adoption and application of such extraterritorial measures and supports the immediate and unconditional lifting of the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba.

Togo

[Original: French]
[18 May 2012]

In keeping with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, Togo has always strived to promote respect for the sovereign equality and territorial integrity of States and for non-intervention and non-interference in their internal affairs. Likewise, our country unreservedly supports the principle of free trade and navigation, which is enshrined in numerous international legal instruments.

Consequently, Togo systematically rejects the use of any unilateral measures to exert pressure on States.

Togo has never promulgated or applied any laws or measures aimed at curtailing the sovereignty of other States, or the legitimate interests of entities or persons under their jurisdiction.

The Government of Togo has therefore consistently supported the actions of the Cuban Government aimed at ending the embargo imposed on Cuba by the United States of America.

Tonga

[Original: English]
[11 June 2012]

The Kingdom of Tonga adheres fully to the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and accepted under international law, in particular, the principles of sovereign equality of States, non-intervention and non-interference in their internal affairs and freedom of international trade and navigation.

Thus, the Kingdom of Tonga has not promulgated or applied any laws or measures of the kind referred to in the preamble to resolution 66/6. The Kingdom of Tonga maintains friendly and diplomatic relations with Cuba.

Trinidad and Tobago

[Original: English]
[4 June 2012]

The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago remains fully committed to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and, in particular, the principles of the sovereign equality of States, non-intervention and non-interference in their internal affairs and freedom of international trade and navigation.

Therefore, in conformity with its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and international law, the Government does not apply unilateral economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion against other countries.

The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago enjoys friendly, diplomatic, economic and trade relations with the Republic of Cuba and continues to consistently support subregional, regional and international efforts to promote constructive dialogue aimed at a final cessation of the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba.

Tunisia

[Original: French]
[26 June 2012]

Tunisia applies no unilateral laws or measures with extraterritorial effect.

Turkey

[Original: English]
[25 May 2012]

The Republic of Turkey does not have any laws or measures of the kind referred to in the preamble to resolution 66/6; expresses concern at such measures that adversely affect the living standards of people; and reaffirms its adherence to the principles of freedom of trade and navigation in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

The Government of Turkey maintains its stance that differences and problems between States should be settled through dialogue and negotiations.

Turkmenistan

[Original: English]
[13 June 2012]

Turkmenistan supported the adoption of resolution 66/6. Moreover, Turkmenistan's national legislation contains no provisions on limitation of freedom of trade and navigation.

Tuvalu

[Original: English]
[11 April 2012]

The Government of Tuvalu reiterates its position that the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba runs counter to the need for promoting dialogue and ensuring the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations, which calls for solidarity, cooperation and friendly relations among nations. Such discriminatory trade practices continue to adversely affect the living conditions and human rights of the Cuban people and to hamper the efforts of the

Cuban Government to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

The Government of Tuvalu has not promulgated or applied laws and measures against Cuba that would prohibit economic, commercial and financial relations between Tuvalu and the Republic of Cuba.

Furthermore, the Government of Tuvalu is opposed to the continued adoption and application of such restrictive trade measures and, in this respect, supports the lifting of the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba in line with the unequivocal and continued request of the United Nations Member States.

Uganda

[Original: English]
[25 April 2012]

Uganda has normal trading relations with the Republic of Cuba and does not honour the embargo.

Ukraine

[Original: English]
[4 June 2012]

Ukraine does not have any legislation or regulations whose extraterritorial effects could affect the sovereignty of other States and the legitimate interests of entities or persons under their jurisdiction, or the freedom of trade and international navigation.

Equally, the Government of Ukraine does not accept the application of measures of the kind referred to above and adheres, in its relations with other countries, to the fundamental principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the norms of international law and the freedom of trade and navigation.

United Arab Emirates

[Original: English]
[12 April 2012]

The United Arab Emirates voted for the above-mentioned resolution in accordance with its duties in the light of the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations and international law. The United Arab Emirates affirms the need of all countries to enjoy freedom of trade and use of international maritime passages. Hence, the United Arab Emirates does not apply any economic, commercial or financial embargo measures against Cuba, nor does it sanction such measures outside the provisions of the international legal system.

United Republic of Tanzania

[Original: English]
[1 June 2012]

The Government of the Republic of Tanzania reiterates its deep concern over the continued unilateral imposition of an economic, commercial and financial embargo against the Government and people of Cuba. It is disheartening that the blockade has persisted despite the overwhelming and repeated international calls for cessation, including through resolution 66/6.

The United Republic of Tanzania has taken note of the positive political and economic reforms undertaken in recent years by Cuba and supports Cuban efforts in that endeavour. Equally important, Tanzania appreciates President Obama's progressive steps in removing sanctions related to the removal of restrictions on family travel and cash remittances, and that of authorizing expanded telecommunications services between the two countries.

Despite the encouraging developments, Tanzania calls for a more holistic approach that will ensure cessation of the embargo against Cuba, which has persisted for over half a century with terrible consequences for the Cuban people. It is in that regard that the United Republic of Tanzania will continue to appeal to the United States of America for an amicable and immediate end of sanctions and the release of the Cuban Five.

Indeed, the unanimous voice of the international community and norms established by the same cannot and should not be ignored. All nations, without exceptions, have an obligation to uphold the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, both at home and abroad.

Uruguay

[Original: Spanish]
[26 April 2012]

The Eastern Republic of Uruguay has repeatedly denounced the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba and its effects on the well-being of the Cuban people, as a result of unilateral coercive measures that affect free trade and the transparent practice of international commerce.

Uruguay maintains a foreign policy favourable to free trade and navigation and does not recognize in its legislation the extraterritorial application of domestic laws of other States. It holds the view that, in addition to violating generally accepted principles of international law, this practice is a form of pressure that impedes, rather than promotes, dialogue.

Accordingly, the Eastern Republic of Uruguay has neither promulgated nor applied any laws, decrees or measures of the kind referred to in United Nations General Assembly resolution 66/6.

Vanuatu

[Original: English]
[4 June 2012]

The Government of Vanuatu reiterates its position that all States should refrain from imposing economic sanctions of the nature referred to in resolution 66/6, in conformity with their obligations under the Charter of the United Nations.

Vanuatu has not taken any measures that might impair economic, commercial or financial relations between Cuba and Vanuatu. On the contrary, Vanuatu is intent on developing cooperative relations with all countries and, in this regard, fully supports the call for the lifting of the embargo against Cuba.

Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

[Original: Spanish]
[22 May 2012]

In accordance with the constitutional principles that underpin its actions in the community of nations, namely humanism, cooperation and solidarity among peoples; staunch in its commitment to peace; and guided by its unconditional respect for the norms and principles of international law, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela does not and will never apply unilateral measures with extraterritorial effects that violate the sovereign rights and political independence of other States, as well as the human rights of their people.

The Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela reiterates its categorical rejection of the application of unilateral measures with extraterritorial effects because, in its opinion, they violate the norms and principles of international law, as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and other international legal instruments, and because they violate free trade and navigation and the norms of the international trading system.

In addition, it reaffirms its condemnation of the application of the extraterritorial provisions of the Torricelli and Helms-Burton Acts, which have caused serious additional harm to the Cuban economy over the past two decades in terms of its economic relations with third countries and with the subsidiaries of United States firms.

Since 1991, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela has strongly supported the 20 resolutions overwhelmingly adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on this subject, together with the declarations made in other political forums, repudiating this type of hostile action, which undermines peaceful coexistence between nations and international legality.

The Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela again calls on United States President Barack Obama to end the merciless economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed against the fraternal people of Cuba by the United States of America. A favourable response to this international appeal would demonstrate that country's commitment to international legality and its unconditional respect for the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations.

The policy of confrontation promoted and implemented by the United States of America for more than 40 years has affected the well-being of the citizens of the brotherly nation of Cuba, whose human rights have been violated as a result of the illegal measures. The Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela therefore demands that the United States of America comply strictly with General Assembly resolutions 47/19, 48/16, 49/9, 50/10, 51/17, 52/10, 53/4, 54/21, 55/20, 56/9, 57/11, 58/7, 59/11, 60/12, 61/11, 62/3, 63/7, 64/6, 65/6 and 66/6.

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela reiterates its condemnation of the strengthening of the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed against Cuba by the United States of America, an action that in no way contributes to the climate of dialogue and cooperation that must necessarily prevail in international relations among sovereign, independent States in conformity with the spirit and purpose of the Charter of the United Nations and with resolution 2625 (XXV), the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States, adopted by the General Assembly on 24 October 1970.

The Venezuelan Government notes with concern the measures taken by President Barack Obama's administration, which continue to hinder the purchase of medicines for the Cuban people, as shown by its refusal to allow Abbott Laboratories, among others, to acquire Sevoflurane, an inhalant drug used specifically for general anaesthesia in children.

Such unilateral punitive measures also include prohibiting United States authorities from selling health-care technology and equipment to Cuba. Thus, the United States Government, with its policies of persistent aggression, is flagrantly violating the human rights of the Cuban people, and particularly its right to health, by blocking the sale of equipment and drugs to this fraternal Latin American country.

It should also be noted that the impact of the criminal embargo policy applied by the United States for some 50 years has also been felt in the area of sports. In March 2011, the United States Government refused to allow its team to travel to Cuba to play in the twelfth International Badminton Tournament.

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela endorses the repeated declarations made by, inter alia, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, the Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government, the European Union-Latin America and Caribbean Summit and the Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, in repudiation of the application of unilateral measures with extraterritorial effects, which it considers to be contrary to dialogue and cooperation as genuine expressions of inclusive and transparent multilateralism.

It also wishes to draw attention to the special communiqué issued by the Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, held in Caracas from 2 to 3 December 2011, expressing the following:

> 1. ... their strongest opposition to the coercive and unilateral economic measures imposed on sovereign countries for political reasons. These measures impair the well-being of their peoples and are designed to prevent these countries from exercising their right to determine, of their own free will, their political, economic and social systems.

> 2. They reiterate their strongest condemnation of the application of laws and measures that contravene international law, such as the Helms-Burton Act, including the extraterritorial effects thereof, and urge the Government of the United States of America to end them.
>
> 3. Consequently, they call on the Government of the United States of America, in accordance with the successive resolutions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly and in response to repeated calls from the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, to put an end to the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba, which is contrary to international law, inflicts extensive and unwarranted harm on the Cuban people and affects peace and harmonious relations among the nations of the Americas.

In this context, it should also be pointed out that, at the ninth Summit of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America-Peoples' Trade Agreement (ALBA-TCP), held in Caracas on 19 April 2010, the Heads of State and Government of Antigua and Barbuda, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Cuba, Dominica, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela demanded once again that the United States Government should immediately and unconditionally lift the economic embargo against Cuba, as universally urged by the international community and in particular by the peoples and Governments of Latin America and the Caribbean.

In addition, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of ALBA-TCP, at the Sixth Summit of the Americas, held in Cartagena, Colombia, from 14 to 15 April 2012, adopted an official communiqué in which the members decided, in full solidarity with the brotherly Latin American nation of Cuba:

> ... [to] demand that the United States Government end immediately the inhuman economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba, and open a process of dialogue on the basis of respect for the sovereign will and self-determination of the Cuban people.

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is convinced that the international community must not let up in its efforts to end the practice of applying unilateral coercive measures that seek to curtail the sovereign right of States to determine, in keeping with the right of self-determination, their own political and social model consistent with the actual situation in their respective countries and the particular requirements of their people. It considers that peoples should under no circumstances be deprived of their own means of subsistence and development.

Lastly, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela renews its firm commitment to unconditional respect for the norms and principles of international law and therefore appeals again to the Government of the United States of America to comply with the 20 resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and end its illegally maintained economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba.

Viet Nam

[Original: English]
[11 May 2012]

The United States policy of blockade and embargo against Cuba over the past many decades represents a violation of international laws in general and free trade law in particular, the infringement of fundamental principles of the Charter of the United Nations, contravening the common desire of nations in the world to build sound and equal international relations, regardless of political systems and in respect for each nation's right to choose its own path of development.

The General Assembly has for many consecutives years adopted with an overwhelming majority resolutions demanding that the United States end its economic, trade and financial blockade and embargo policies and laws against Cuba, the most recent of which is resolution 66/6, adopted with 186 votes in favour.

It is the view of Viet Nam that the differences between the United States and the Republic of Cuba should be resolved through dialogue and negotiation, in the spirit of mutual respect, respect for each other's independence and sovereignty, and non-interference in the other's internal affairs.

Viet Nam reaffirms its strong support for the related General Assembly resolutions and believes that the United Nations will soon produce concrete initiatives and measures to rapidly implement the adopted resolutions in order to put an immediate end to the blockade and embargo against Cuba.

Once again, Viet Nam confirms its friendship, cooperation and solidarity with the Cuban people and resolves to do its utmost with other peace-, freedom- and justice-loving peoples in the world to help the Cuban people overcome the consequences of the above-mentioned immoral and illegal blockade and embargo policy.

Yemen

[Original: Arabic]
[2 July 2012]

We should like to note that for some 35 years, the Republic of Yemen has enjoyed outstanding diplomatic relations with the fraternal Republic of Cuba at the economic, social and cultural levels. Yemen has consistently sought to develop and strengthen those relations in the joint interests of both countries and peoples. It has concluded several bilateral cooperation agreements with the fraternal Republic of Cuba at the diplomatic, economic, cultural and medical levels. As a result of those agreements, Cuban citizens have been sent to Yemen and educational missions have gone to Cuba, and there has been active cooperation in a number of areas.

Yemen therefore supports the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba.

Zambia

[Original: English]
[4 June 2012]

The Government of the Republic of Zambia opposes unilateral coercive measures directed at any State Member of the United Nations in violation of the Charter of the Organization, international law and international humanitarian law.

In this regard, Zambia supports the call for all States to refrain from promulgating and applying laws and measures referred to in the preamble of the resolution that hinder freedom of trade and navigation, and urges States that have and continue to apply such laws and measures to take the necessary steps to repeal or invalidate them as soon as possible in accordance with their legal regime.

Zambia has always been in support of the lifting of the embargo against Cuba. To this end, Zambia wishes to state that it does not have any laws that contradict the resolution and calls upon those that have such laws to repeal them.

Zimbabwe

[Original: English]
[4 May 2012]

Zimbabwe, once again wishes to express its greatest concern over the illegal economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States Government against the Government and people of Cuba.

The report of the Secretary-General makes it clear that the United States embargo on Cuba has denied that country access to markets, development credit and technology and further restricted freedom of navigation, trade and remittances to the Cuban people. As a result of the strict and strong enforcement of the United States embargo laws, the Government and people of Cuba have been denied their right to engage in international trade, leading to that country's development aspirations being severely curtailed.

Every year more than 180 Member States vote to have the embargo lifted. This is irrefutable proof that the majority of the international community is against this draconian and destructive United States measure against a smaller and weaker Member of the United Nations.

Zimbabwe, again, this year joins others in calling on the United States to lift its embargo on Cuba. As highlighted by the majority of Member States during the last 20 years, this blockade violates international law and is against the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. The embargo, given its extraterritorial nature, also violates the sovereign rights of many other States.

III. Replies received from organs and agencies of the United Nations system

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

[Original: English]
[1 June 2012]

Cuba's recent economic performance

The performance of the Cuban economy in 2011 was marked by the discussion and initial implementation of major reforms intended to update the country's economic model in order to boost productivity, expand its net exports and remove its foreign exchange constraint to attain high long-term growth. Among the new guidelines on economic matters approved by the Congress the following stand out: (a) a gradual reduction of 20 per cent of the State payroll, that is, around 1 million jobs (140,000 public jobs were eliminated in 2011 and the goal for 2012 is to cut another 170,000); (b) the development of non-State and private enterprises; (c) rationalization of subsidies to both the population and public enterprises; and (d) long-term leasing of idle agricultural lands. The reforms allow for more active operation of regulated market forces.

By April 2012, after the launch of the reform process, 385,775 Cubans had formally registered as working in non-State enterprises, in particular in the food, passenger-transportation services and house-leasing.[2]

The Government had also granted greater managerial autonomy in investment decisions and day-to-day management to public enterprises, and had transferred additional competences to subnational entities and governments.

In 2011 Cuba's gross domestic product (GDP) grew by 2.7 per cent, above its rate of expansion in 2010 (2.1 per cent). This moderate growth derives from the improvement in the external situation of the economy, as well as from the increase in consumption, particularly private consumption. Improvements enabled the Government to meet most of its 2011 payment obligations to international creditors and to eliminate the backlog of payments to foreign suppliers.

The fiscal deficit increased from the equivalent of 3.5 per cent of GDP in 2010 to 3.8 per cent in 2011 (0.2 per cent higher than the official target). Government outlays prioritized investing fresh resources in various public enterprises. Inflation was somewhat higher in 2011 than in 2010, owing to the reduction of public subsidies to some consumption goods and to the rise in food prices brought about by a lower than anticipated domestic supply and high international prices.

The embargo by the United States of America continues to exacerbate Cuba's balance of payments constraint, forcing policymakers to prioritize the generation and allocation of foreign exchange through high-value exports and import substitution. A key issue in this regard is the impact of the volatility and persistent increases in international market prices of food and oil, on which Cuba is critically dependent to meet its needs.

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[2] Following the decision of the Government of Cuba to reduce public sector employment and to foster the expansion of non-public enterprises, including cooperatives and self-employment enterprises, by the end of 2011, new activities were authorized to be carried out by "cuentapropistas", in addition to the 178 approved initially.

The effects of the United States embargo: recent developments

February 2012 marked 50 years since the start of the United States embargo against Cuba and despite announcements by the Government of the United States in 2011 that restrictions on remittances, travel permits for Cuban Americans, and flights to Cuba from airports in the United States would be relaxed,[3] in practice, there has been little change.[4] Indeed, the United States continues to apply extraterritorial instruments such as the Torricelli (1992) and Helms-Burton (1996) laws that undermine Cuba's ability to establish commercial ties with subsidiaries of United States companies in third countries and to forge investment partnerships with non-United States companies interested in Cuba. Under such laws, companies which establish ties with Cuba are sanctioned by the United States Government. This was the case of a subsidiary of the French transport and maritime company CMA-CGM which was fined $374,400 on 18 August 2011 for having offered container services to Cuba. Similarly, at the end of December 2011 the New York branch of the German bank Commerzbank was fined $175,000 for facilitating bank transactions between a Cuban company and a Canadian one.

The latest report presented by the Government of Cuba to the General Assembly indicates that the cumulative cost of the embargo was over $104,000 million as at the end of December 2010. The United States embargo continues to severely affect the day-to-day welfare of Cuban citizens. Cuba must import medicines, medical equipment and health-related products from distant countries, raising substantially its shipping costs and retail prices. The embargo has also increased the costs of agricultural inputs such as fertilizers and seeds, making it more expensive and difficult to produce food domestically. Cuban enterprises are banned from importing from the United States the materials, tools and equipment necessary for the construction and operation of hospitals, schools, houses, and roads and other public works. Access to productivity-enhancing technology is also severely limited by the embargo. Furthermore, given the uncertainty introduced by the embargo, Cuba has been forced to maintain, as long as possible, large inventories of items and spare parts, thus incurring additional costs, including for storage. All of this has had major adverse effects on all Cubans.

Additionally, since 1982, the United States Department of State has included Cuba in its list of states sponsoring terrorism. Countries under this category are subject to severe unilateral sanctions on the part of the United States Government, such as the prohibition of economic assistance and the imposition of miscellaneous financial and other restrictions. According to information contained in a report of the United States Department of the Treasury, the United States seized $245 million from Cuba.[5] This is the highest sum seized from countries sanctioned and includes $4.2 million from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, earmarked for the implementation of cooperation projects in Cuba to combat HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis.

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[3] Mark P. Sullivan, "Cuba: issues for the 112th Congress", Congressional Research Service Report for Congress, 20 July 2012, p. 33.

[4] United States of America, Department of the Treasury, Office of Foreign Assets Control, "Cuba: what you need to know about U.S. sanctions against Cuba", 24 January 2012.

[5] United States, Department of the Treasury, Office of Foreign Assets Control, "Terrorist assets report: calendar year 2011".

The Government of Cuba has stated that this year its priority is to update the country's economic model while maintaining its considerable achievements on social protection. The embargo, however, could hinder the implementation of the ongoing reform process, for instance curbing the ability to meet the demand for credit from enterprises and cooperatives in the agriculture sector as well as from the self-employed in need of working capital and machinery and equipment. Continued import restrictions due to foreign exchange and other United States-imposed prohibitions and limitations result in serious constraints for the expansion of agricultural output, productivity and employment in both the public and non-public sectors.

According to plans, during the first stage of the reform to be concluded in March 2011, half a million workers would have to be transferred from public jobs to the private sector. Creating this number of jobs in high productivity sectors requires enormous amounts of capital and foreign exchange. As the experience in both developing and developed countries demonstrates, access to international finance is crucial during periods of profound economic restructuring and transformation. The highly restricted access to finance for development from international financial institutions and multilateral banks, another outcome of the embargo, could hamper the process of economic transformation and generate additional social and economic costs for Cuba's population at large.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

[Original: English]
[28 May 2012]

Overall situation: effects of the embargo on food security and on agriculture, fisheries and the food industry

The main changes since the last reporting period can be summarized as follows:

(a) Cereal production in 2011 is estimated at 815,000 tons, about 5 per cent above the 2010 output, reflecting mainly the increase in the 2011 paddy crop. Total cereal production is some 3 per cent up from the average of the previous five years;

(b) Paddy production in 2011 is officially estimated at 460,000 tons, 1 per cent above the 2010 output. The modest increase was attributable to more favourable growing conditions, although at that level, production fell well short of the 564,000 tons achieved in 2009. The slow progress in recovery reflects limited access to agricultural machinery and basic inputs, despite Government efforts to boost investment in the sector and reduce reliance on imports. Production of maize in 2011 is estimated at 355,000 tons, an increase of 9 per cent from the previous season. Imported volumes of cereals have remained steady in recent years, around 2 million tons, and are expected to cover three quarters of the country's domestic needs in 2011-2012.

The main effects of the embargo on agriculture, fisheries, livestock and the food industry should continue to be viewed from two different perspectives:

(a) The problems brought about by the impossibility of taking full advantage of the export potential for coffee, honey, tobacco, live lobsters and aquaculture products in the nearest market, the United States. This has implied major losses, since it has been necessary to sell to markets located further away with the resulting higher marketing and distribution costs. Payment of additional costs negatively affects the country's capacity to purchase basic products, especially food. Moreover, trade often leads to a transfer of know-how and scientific collaboration. Cubans are not benefiting from such transfers;

(b) The increase in costs for inputs needed for agricultural, fisheries and livestock production (fuel, spare parts for agricultural machinery, animal feeds, phyto- and zoo-sanitary products and fertilizers as well as top technological products such as herbicides, low-toxicity insecticides, other highly effective pesticides or veterinary pharmaceuticals, and disease-diagnostic kits), which, in many cases, are only produced by United States firms. This directly increases the production costs, resulting in decreased profitability and a lower capacity to satisfy the local demand. In general, if equipment could be purchased from the United States, this would lower import costs by at least 20 per cent.

The global food and financial crises have contributed to a deterioration of the economic situation worldwide, but in the case of Cuba the negative effects are exacerbated further because of the embargo.

The embargo has very negative implications for Cuba's balance of trade and foreign exchange earnings, as well as for the country's supply of food and agriculture products. The embargo affects the import of food products for human consumption, particularly those destined to meet the needs of social programmes, as restrictions limit their quantity and quality and thus have a direct effect on the food security of the vulnerable segments of the population.

An additional problem resulting from the embargo relates to the difficulty for Cuba to access external multilateral financing for development programmes in agriculture and rural development in general, and the related unavailability of resources for rehabilitating and modernizing agricultural equipment and infrastructure.

Effects of the embargo on selected agricultural commodities

Cereals

Cereal production in 2011 is estimated at 815,000 tons, about 5 per cent above the 2010 output and 3 per cent up from the average of the previous five years. Paddy production is officially estimated to have reached 460,000 tons, which means that losses from shortfalls induced by rainfall in 2010 have only been partially recuperated. However, based on expectations of normal climatic conditions and continued recovery in the area, paddy output in 2012 is anticipated to stage a stronger recovery, rising by 11 per cent to 510,000 tons. In spite of recent gains and the favourable production outlook for the coming season, the country is highly dependent on imports. Current forecasts indicate import levels of 500,000 tons of rice (to be imported in 2012); 720,000 tons of coarse grains (to be imported in 2011-2012 (July/June)); and wheat imports projected to reach about 800,000 tons. Overall, cereal imports account for more than 70 per cent of domestic use.

In general, despite the Government's efforts to liberalize and promote domestic food production, dependence on imports remains high, mainly as a result of the low availability of agricultural inputs. These factors are also behind the slow growth in paddy production over the last season, even though Government efforts to curb imports, in particular of rice, have recently involved stepping up investment in agricultural machinery, irrigation and drainage infrastructure. The easing of sanctions by the United States since 2001 has resulted in larger food and agricultural product purchases from the United States, which has since become the main grain supplier for the country. Similarly, and in spite of significant efforts to boost local production, Cuba continues to rely on foreign supplies to meet much of its rice consumption needs, with its annual imports in recent years amounting to over 500,000 tons. However, the embargo has resulted in much reduced United States rice shipments to Cuba, which was once the largest single outlet of the United States. After striking a high of 177,000 tons in 2004, United States deliveries to Cuba fell to 12,000 tons in 2008, and no rice has been exported to the country since June of that year. Preferential trade agreements with Viet Nam have instead facilitated the provision of much of the island's annual rice needs, with Brazil and Argentina also emerging as alternative suppliers more recently. Still, prospects of large shipments to Cuba, given its geographical proximity and ease of transport, have encouraged the United States rice industry to support an easing of sanctions on Cuba. The elimination of requirements in respect of payments for agricultural exports, which under current legislation must take place in advance of delivery and through third-party banks, is at the centre of legislative proposals.

Oilseeds

Oilseed production in Cuba is not significant and, as a result, the country depends almost entirely on imports to supply its vegetable oil and meal needs. Commodities dominating imports are soybeans, soy oil and soy meal. Recently, Brazil started providing assistance to Cuba regarding the cultivation of adapted, high-yielding varieties on the island. When the United States embargo came into effect, Brazil and Argentina became the main suppliers of soybeans and derived products. Both Mexico and Canada have, on occasion, shipped small volumes to Cuba. Countries from which Cuba imported non-soybean oils and meals include Argentina, Mexico, European Union, Canada and China. Imports of soybeans and derived products from the United States resumed in 2002, largely replacing purchases from other regions. However, a United States measure introduced in 2005 is considered to have kept imports from that country below the level that could otherwise be achieved, while permitting purchases from other countries, notably soy oil imports from Brazil, to expand again.

Raw sugar

According to the latest estimates by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Cuba produced 1.2 million tons of sugar in 2010-2011, which is about 3 per cent below the average level for the period of 2005-2009. Despite a moderate recovery of production, which reached 1.5 million tons in 2007, output has remained on a downward trend, largely owing to underinvestment in the sugar production capacities at both farm and mill levels. Sugar consumption is estimated at 734,000 tons in 2010-2011, which is 3.3 per cent higher than in the previous year and in line with population growth. Because of declining production, exports fell drastically, by 76 per cent, from their levels of 2000-2001. As a result of the embargo, Cuba does not have access to the United States market under the raw sugar tariff rate quota.

Poultry and eggs

After surging in 2009 and 2010 to about 180,000 tons, Cuba's poultry imports decreased to 133,000 tons in 2011, with 70 per cent supplied by the United States and the remaining 30 per cent by Brazil. However, poultry imports during the first quarter of 2012 more than tripled compared to the same period last year with the United States shipping 45,000 tons in three months. Despite the recent changes in Government policy in favour of the development of the national agriculture, productivity increases are hampered by the restricted access to financial resources and technologies and limited infrastructure. Cuba therefore relies heavily on poultry imports to satisfy a growing domestic demand.

Dairy products

Since 2005, milk production has increased substantially in Cuba and is estimated to have reached 650,000 tons in 2011, up 3 per cent from the previous year. However, productivity gains are reportedly falling and the country continues to rely on costly imports, mainly milk powder (35,000 to 40,000 tons annually) from Oceania and Latin America (mainly Uruguay). Among the reasons for last year's restrained output increase and the poor quality of raw product were adverse climatic conditions together with structural problems. The national dairy sector is one of the priority areas of the food policy of the Government of Cuba, which aims to become less dependent on expensive food imports. The high prices on the international dairy market forced the Government also to increase producer prices to stimulate national output.

Fish products

Almost all of Cuba's fish exports consist of high-value products, notably frozen shrimp and lobster, which are in strong demand on the international market. The economic crisis has had a negative impact on demand for these species. However, the embargo prevents access to the United States market, which is one of the most important markets for fish and fish products. As a result, Cuba exports to more distant markets with the resultant higher marketing and distribution costs. Export earnings amounted to $59.5 million in 2010 for a total volume of 5,700 tons (product weight), representing an increase of 31 per cent compared to 2009, but a decrease of 25 per cent compared to 2008. Fish imports, consisting mainly of low-value fish products, significantly declined in 2010 reaching $25.1 million for a total volume of 13,000 tons (product weight) or a decline of 42 per cent with respect to 2009 and 62 per cent compared with 2008.

Technical assistance to Cuba by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) continues to support the Government of Cuba in promoting rural development and fisheries, with emphasis on food security. Additionally, FAO is assisting Cuba in sharing its extensive knowledge of urban and peri-urban agriculture with other neighbouring countries in the region. In this context, FAO has recently assisted the Ministry of Agriculture of Cuba in organizing a seminar entitled "Seminario internacional de agricultura urbana y periurbana", in Havana from 15 to 18 May 2012, within the framework of the Convention "Trópico 2012" and the Fourth Congress on Tropical Agriculture.

Within the framework of the South-South Cooperation programme, a tripartite agreement was signed between Cuba, Cape Verde and FAO on 13 May 2011, whereby Cuba would provide technical assistance to Cape Verde through an expert and 12 technicians over a period of 18 months. The main objective is to plan and carry out activities in the following areas within Cape Verde's national programme for food security: horticulture and vegetable production, water management, small-animal farming, hydroponic-vegetable gardening and packaging of vegetable products.

With the conclusion in May 2011 of the projects funded by the Governments of Norway and Spain, both of which supported the rehabilitation of the agricultural, livestock and fisheries sectors, the immediate support and the rehabilitation activities undertaken in response to the hurricanes and tropical storms that had severely affected the country at the end of 2008 are now over. There were fortunately no significant disasters during the year under review, hence no further request for emergency and rehabilitation assistance was received from the Government.

FAO is part of two joint programmes funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)-Spain Millennium Development Goals Achievement Fund, in association with other resident agencies. With the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Programme, Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization, and World Food Programme, as well as institutions under five ministries, FAO implements the programme "Support for the fight against anaemia in vulnerable groups in Cuba", and is responsible for activities involving food production and processing. The total budget of the joint programme is $8.5 million and FAO is responsible for administering $3.3 million.

The second joint programme, "Support for new decentralization initiatives and production stimulation in Cuba", is implemented jointly with UNDP, and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), as well as with the Ministries of Agriculture and Economy and Planning. The overall budget of the joint programme is $7 million, of which FAO is responsible for $1.1 million to support activities involving food production, processing and training.

Technical support for the life cycle management of pesticides continues to be provided to Cuba, as part of the regional initiatives under the project funded by the European Commission to support capacity-building related to multilateral environmental agreements in African, Caribbean and Pacific countries, for the clean-up of obsolete pesticides, pesticides management and sustainable pest management. The project has supported the inventory of obsolete pesticides, strengthening pesticide registration and raising awareness of pesticide issues. In June 2012, Cuba participated in a regional workshop held in Grenada that addressed the harmonization of pesticide registration within the Caribbean, the compilation of the database of obsolete pesticide stocks and the communication programme for sustainable management of empty pesticide containers.

Within the framework of the FAO/World Organization for Animal Health initiative on the Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Animal Transboundary Diseases, priority has been given to the following diseases: foot-and-mouth disease, classical swine fever, influenza (HPAI/H5N1 and pH1N1), New World screwworm (*Cochliomyia hominivorax*), bovine spongiform encephalopathy and rabies. Cuba has taken several measures to prevent, control and eliminate these diseases.

Furthermore, FAO has provided technical support and assistance to develop tools for Cuba to establish a National Information Sharing Mechanism for applying the new monitoring approach for the Global Plan of Action on Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

International Atomic Energy Agency

[Original: English]
[1 June 2012]

Assistance activities by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to all of its Member States, including Cuba, are governed by article III/C of its statute, which reads as follows: "In carrying out its functions, the Agency shall not make assistance to members subject to any political, economic, military, or other conditions incompatible with the provisions of this statute." However, the existing embargo poses certain difficulties to the implementation of the Agency's technical cooperation programme in Cuba, as it is not possible to procure some specialized equipment from United States companies, or, on occasion, to obtain visas for Cuban nationals to attend IAEA-organized training activities or meetings in the United States. In accordance with the above-mentioned article of its statute, the Agency tries to overcome these difficulties, to the extent that it can, for example, by purchasing equipment from other locations at a higher cost and sending Cuban nationals for training in other countries, in order to meet the requirements of the Agency's technical cooperation programme in Cuba.

International Civil Aviation Organization

[Original: English]
[5 June 2011]

The mandate of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) is to promote the safe, secure and orderly development of civil aviation in the world. The Organization is not directly involved in the implementation of resolution 65/6, which is directed at States.

As a Member State, Cuba benefits from the services of ICAO, including safety and security audits, training and workshops in all areas of civil aviation.

International Fund for Agricultural Development

[Original: English]
[6 July 2012]

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) maintains an open dialogue with the Government of Cuba, through its representatives in Italy, on all matters pertaining to rural development, agricultural production and food security in the country. Moreover, Cuba has participated in IFAD's Governing Council as a Member State. During the past years, missions were fielded to Cuba with the purpose of reintegrating the country into the regular lending and programme of work of IFAD. In addition, IFAD is keeping a fluid dialogue and cooperating with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other United Nations agencies present in the country.

International Labour Organization

[Original: English]
[7 May 2012]

Cuba is treated in the same way as any other State member of the International Labour Organization (ILO) and actively participates in the annual International Labour Conference and other ILO bodies. The ILO Office in Mexico continues its technical cooperation programme on employment and decent work issues in Cuba. During the biennium 2012-2013, ILO is providing technical assistance in three substantive areas:

(a) Promotion of productivity and decent work and development of responsible workplace practices through the implementation of the methodology of the System for the Measurement and Improvement of Productivity, based on labour competencies in the sugar industry;

(b) Strengthening the capacity of constituents to consolidate safety and health programmes, with special emphasis on the reduction of work-related accidents in the sugar industry and in other high-risk sectors such as electricity;

(c) Strengthening social dialogue and mechanisms in line with international labour standards to promote the ratification of Convention No. 144 on tripartite consultation.

ILO reiterates its view that the United Nations is the appropriate forum in which to address questions related to the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba.

International Maritime Organization

[Original: English]
[14 May 2012]

As a State member of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), Cuba benefits from its participation in the meetings of IMO bodies and also from IMO technical cooperation programmes (IMO regional programmes on support to maritime development in Latin America and in the Caribbean, as well as global programmes as applicable).

IMO maintains collaborative relations with all Latin American member States, including Cuba. Since the early 1980s, IMO has collaborated closely with the Operative Network for Regional Cooperation among Maritime Authorities of the Americas, which comprises South America, Cuba, Mexico and Panama.

IMO assistance to Latin America is guided by the maritime strategies of the region, which are revised every five years, and IMO will continue to focus on supporting their implementation. Countries of the Operative Network for Regional Cooperation among Maritime Authorities of the Americas have addressed such issues as safety standards, training and protection of the marine environment through regional strategies, with numerous training activities organized in cooperation with IMO. In this context, and in pursuance of the decentralization policies IMO has adopted, most of its support is channelled through the Network by virtue of a memorandum of understanding signed with the Network's secretariat. Through this instrument, the Network is assigned responsibility for the management and execution of regional technical cooperation activities identified by the respective countries, including Cuba, as priorities in building capacities for the effective implementation and enforcement of IMO global maritime standards.

On 1 January 2011, Cuba, through its Ministry of Transport, took over the duties of the Network secretariat for a period of two years. As a result of the embargo imposed by the United States, IMO has encountered some difficulties in transferring to the secretariat funds allocated for activities IMO delegates to the Network. For former Network secretariats, the funds allocated for the training activities were transferred to a special bank account opened by the secretariat in a national bank. In the case of Cuba, all the funds must be managed through the United Nations Development Programme in Cuba because it is not possible for the Ministry of Transport to handle a bank account in United States dollars.

Cuba also receives technical assistance from the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Information and Training Centre for the Wider Caribbean, a regional activity centre based in Curaçao, which aims to assist countries in the wider Caribbean region in preventing and responding to major pollution incidents in the marine environment.

International Telecommunication Union

[Original: English]
[22 May 2012]

Cuba raised its concerns with respect to the embargo preventing its access to information and communication technologies in its policy statement during the last International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Plenipotentiary Conference held in October 2010 in Guadalajara, Mexico. Those concerns were reiterated at the recent ITU World Radiocommunication Conference held in February 2012 in Geneva.

Interference with Cuba's communications has also continued to receive full consideration by the ITU. Two active cases of complaints of harmful interference submitted by Cuba, which involve transmissions from radio stations based onboard an aircraft under the jurisdiction of the administration of the United States, are under consideration by the ITU Radio Regulations Board. Both cases were also considered by the 2012 World Radiocommunication Conference. At that Conference the director of the ITU Radiocommunication Bureau was instructed to include in his report to the next Conference a report on the interference to Cuban broadcasting services by the administration of the United States, in conformity with the conclusions of the 2007 Conference, which urged the concerned administrations to fulfil their obligations under the provisions of the ITU Radio Regulations, but nonetheless expressed the opinion that a broadcasting station operating onboard an aircraft and transmitting solely to the territory of another administration without its agreement cannot be considered to be acting in conformity with the Radio Regulations. The matter is continuously placed on the agenda of the Radio Regulations Board, and is being considered at its fifty-ninth meeting.

In addition, two new cases of interference from stations based onboard an aircraft under the jurisdiction of the administration of the United States, into the FM Sound broadcasting service of Cuba will also be presented to the Radio Regulations Board. This is the first time that this type of interference to FM Sound broadcasting is reported by Cuba.

Office of the Resident Coordinator of the United Nations system for operational activities for development, Cuba

[Original: English]
[28 June 2012]

Cuba has maintained a high human development rate, having attained 51st place among 187 nations and 11th place among developing countries in 2011. In terms of the accomplishment of the Millennium Development Goals, Cuba is a developing country where many of the Millennium Development Goals were achieved long before those goals were agreed to in an international forum. The main challenges in the case of Cuba relate to the quality and the sustainability of what has been already achieved.

The Cuban economic and social context in 2011 was marked by the implementation of the process for updating its economic model. The Economic and Social Policy Guidelines for the Party and the Revolution address the fundamental principles of the updating process. This document served as a basis for popular debate and was finally discussed and approved during the Sixth Congress of the Communist Party of Cuba in April 2011. The reorganization process focused on national priorities such as the efficiency and productivity of the economy, the national food security strategy and the import substitution policy. There has been a clear commitment by the national authorities to the accomplishment and maintenance of social development standards.

Some of the economic and social measures taken under the implementation of the guidelines are: authorizing and facilitating the transfer of property such as homes and cars (sale and donation); increasing the flexibility and scope of self-employment as an employment option; establishing and promoting a credit policy system to be used by financial institutions (to benefit the self-employment sector, agricultural producers with legal custody of land, and individuals involved in their own home construction activities); granting of subsidies to low-income people for construction and home-repair projects they undertake themselves; authorizing direct sales by agricultural producers (Agricultural Production Cooperatives, Credit and Service Cooperatives, Basic Units of Cooperative Production and state enterprises with organic farms) to tourist facilities in Cuban pesos without Government intermediation.

In fostering non-state forms of management as an employment alternative in a context of the restructuring of the State labour force, specific measures include relaxed regulations, tax cuts, reduced licensing fees, exempting the elderly from payments to Social Security, waiving of tax payments for some independent workers, changes to facilitate the hiring of employees and the rental of space. Cuban authorities also decided to further expand to 181 the number of categories of private jobs.

One of the guidelines calls for the promotion of multilateral collaboration, with particular reference to the institutions of the United Nations system. In this context, the United Nations system supports the efforts of national authorities to address emerging issues and challenges.

The United Nations country team in Cuba is composed of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Food Programme. In addition, non-resident agencies like the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women have important programmes and initiatives in Cuba.

Cuba's first United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2008-2013, addresses five key national priorities: local human development, natural disaster and risk mitigation, environment and energy, health and food security. These priorities have remained aligned with the ongoing national updating process. Overall, the emphasis is placed on strengthening national and local capacities to support development in Cuba. Additionally, the formulation of the second United Nations Development Assistance Framework (2014-2018) has been initiated in response to the needs and priorities of the current national development strategies.

In the context of development, the embargo has had a negative impact on the country's social and economic performance and, in particular, on the most vulnerable socioeconomic groups of the Cuban population.

Each United Nations agency has contributed specific inputs to the present report. In this section of the report, the most significant cross-cutting issues that have a negative effect on the work of the United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies in Cuba are presented.

Purchase of inputs at competitive prices and limitations on the import of goods, services and technologies patented in the United States

Cuban national companies and foreign companies established in Cuba are not allowed to purchase products, components or technologies in United States territory even though the United States is the closest, most competitive and most diversified market. Alternative markets that are adequate are more distant, resulting in higher importation costs and delays in delivery time. In addition, goods, services or technologies produced by the United States, covered by United States patents, or containing any component produced and/or patented by the United States, are not available to Cuba.

Development inputs and humanitarian products such as medicines, medical equipment, fertilizers, food supplements, laboratory equipment, agricultural implements, educational resources, computers, information and communications software, tools, construction materials, and electric generators are affected by these restrictions, even if they are purchased through multilateral cooperation.

This has had a negative impact on the development and humanitarian assistance provided by the United Nations system to Cuba. This is particularly the case for projects supporting the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and focusing on vulnerable groups, in such areas as maternal health, child mortality, HIV/AIDS and food security.

Consequently, the expected results of programmes and projects have been limited in scope and timing. Furthermore, budgetary resources are required to cover additional costs incurred as a result of embargo conditions, which could have been used to more effectively achieve the expected programme results.

In addition, the implementation of programmes designed to monitor progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, as well as the impact of natural disasters and activities undertaken in response to such disasters, has been limited owing to the lack of the specialized software needed, since the United Nations system in Cuba is affected by the restrictions on the acquisition of licences for computer software patented in the United States.

The daily work of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes in Cuba is directly affected by these United States polices. The United Nations system in the country can rarely benefit from global United Nations corporate contracts with United States companies to purchase and have access to equipment and services such as computers, software licences and Internet services. It is therefore necessary to identify providers exclusively for these offices, with higher prices and administrative costs.

Exchange of expertise

Cuban experts and researchers invited to events in the United States have experienced difficulties in obtaining visas in a timely manner. This situation affects professional exchanges and partnership-building in key areas of development.

Development credits granted by international financial institutions and financial services from United States banks

The embargo has limited Cuba's access to development credits granted by international financial institutions such as the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank, which in turn has narrowed the possibility of obtaining resources to financially support its national and/or local development plans.

United Nations local offices in Cuba cannot make use of corporate accounts with United States banks or use the United States dollar as a currency of payment. These offices therefore have to use additional administrative measures to undertake programme finance operations, resulting in higher costs to the office and a higher administrative burden entailed by the use of third-country banks. The related cost increases have been covered by United Nations and project funds from other donor countries.

Also, as a result of the embargo, Cuban United Nations staff on official missions do not have access to bank services, which limits their capacity to cover costs, especially in emergencies, owing to a lack of access to credit cards.

United Nations staff missions to United Nations Headquarters in the United States

Cuban United Nations staff required to travel to United Nations Headquarters in New York or to Washington, D.C. have to request their visa well in advance. Longer and costlier alternative routes via third countries need to be booked because of the lack of regular direct flights from Cuba to New York or Washington, D.C. This hinders the participation and representation of Cuba's United Nations system staff in corporate training and official meetings, thereby limiting the capacities of the United Nations system in Cuba to work and follow up on the latest systems, policies and guidance on development and emergency activities.

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

[Original: English]
[4 May 2012]

Cuba is not a signatory to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees or the 1967 Protocol thereto. As such, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) receives and decides on asylum claims under its mandate and provides assistance to the refugee population. Thus far, Cuba has maintained its de facto policy of non-refoulement and of protection and assistance in the education and health sectors to refugees recognized under the UNHCR mandate, but does not offer the possibility of local integration. Therefore, and in the absence of prospects for voluntary return in most of the cases, the only durable solution for refugees in Cuba is resettlement sought by UNHCR in third countries.

Cuba's readiness to become a party to the international refugee and statelessness instruments and to engage in finding solutions to the refugee situation within the country are most probably dependent on a change in its bilateral relations with the United States. In this sense, any measure contributing to ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed on Cuba would be a positive step that may lead to Cuba's accession to those instruments.

United Nations Children's Fund

[Original: English]
[4 June 2012]

The economic, commercial and financial embargo continues to have negative effects on the situation and fundamental rights of children, adolescents, women and families in Cuba. The adverse effects of the embargo were felt in the areas of health and education, particularly in respect of the supply of materials and in the provision of support to children with disabilities.

Impact of the embargo on fundamental rights of children and adolescents in Cuba

Health

Services in the area of health continue to be affected by lack of supplies and medicines. Children and their mothers face obstacles in their treatment and in their access to medications. For instance, lack of access to the latest generation of antibiotics for children under the age of one, specifically those for oral administration, impedes full treatment at the appropriate time. The National Institute of Oncology and Radiobiology is unable to use radioactive iodine plates in treating children, as these plates can only be acquired in the United States. Some medical institutions such as the William Soler Paediatric Cardiology Centre face obstacles in accessing the latest surgical technology and equipment needed for the treatment of children.

Imposition of conditions for the purchase of medical products and devices, prohibitions and sanctions against sales to the country of products manufactured or marketed by United States companies or their subsidiaries, remoteness of possible alternative markets, and use of commercial intermediaries lead to increases in prices and in freight costs.

Food and nutrition

The embargo also restricts food imports. Purchasing food from distant markets leads to an increase in food prices, as insurance and freight costs increase. Also, low availability and consumption of iron-rich foods continues to be one of the causes of anaemia in vulnerable population groups such as women of childbearing age, pregnant women and children under 5 years of age.

Education

Economic, financial and commercial obstacles also contribute to problems with the provision of quality education, as they curtail the procurement of construction material and of education supplies and equipment. This affects the maintenance and repair of school facilities, including preschool facilities.

The embargo also affects in a number of ways the creation of therapeutic and educational conditions for children with disabilities, including motor and sensory disabilities, and other special educational needs, both at the school level and in other institutions providing them with care and education. For instance, the purchase of items to meet the educational needs of students with disabilities (touch-tone screens, interactive boards, smart keyboards, unicorn keyboards, Braille printers, language visual display units, etc.) is hindered when these products are marketed by companies licensed by the United States.

Impact of the embargo on the country programme of cooperation

Commercial limitations increase the price of supplies that UNICEF needs to purchase to implement its programme in Cuba. UNICEF in Cuba cannot make use of corporate accounts with United States banks. This requires additional administrative measures resulting in higher costs to the office owing to the use of third-country banks. The related cost increases have been covered by project support funds, which would otherwise have been invested in direct programme activities.

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

[Original: English]
[4 June 2012]

The Doha Mandate adopted at UNCTAD XIII in April 2012 recognizes that unilateral economic, financial or trade measures hinder market access, investments and freedom of transit and the well-being of the populations of affected countries, and it urges States to refrain from applying any such measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations.[6]

Trends in Cuba

The embargo has had significant negative effects on the Cuban economy and on the standard of living of Cuban citizens. The Government of Cuba reported that the overall losses caused by the embargo amounted to $104 billion by the end of December 2010.[7] Cuban citizens had to endure elevated food and health costs owing to the higher transaction costs resulting from the embargo. The losses incurred for the food and health sectors amounted to $120 and $15 million, respectively, during the period from May 2010 to April 2011.[8] Also, substantial losses have been reported in the economic, social, and cultural fields owing to the embargo. As for foreign direct investment, Cuba received inflows of $86 million in 2010. It is estimated that it could have been around $600 million if the embargo had not been imposed. Neighbouring countries Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic received $1,413 and $1,626 million, respectively, in 2010. The embargo also has affected developments in science and technology in Cuba. For example, Cuba's inability to access computer software as well as Internet services provided by United States firms has hampered efforts to improve education and science and technology. Moreover, the extraterritorial application of the United States embargo has obstructed business and capital transactions and thereby increased costs for Cuba and third countries.

The Cuban economy grew 2.4 per cent in 2010, up by 1 per cent from the previous year. This growth rate was low in comparison with those of other Latin

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[6] See TD/500/Add.1, para. 25.

[7] World Trade Organization, "Cuba — article XV:6 of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994: report by the Government of Cuba under the decision of 15 December 2006" (WT/L/826), 18 November 2011.

[8] See A/66/114, pp. 32 and 34.

American and Caribbean countries, with Cuba ranking 21st in the region.[9] The GDP was projected to increase by 2.7 per cent in 2011. Cuba has been undergoing a major reform process in an effort to improve productivity by reducing the public sector and expanding private economic activities. However, the reforms are reported to have progressed more slowly than expected because the country has been recovering from the impact of the global economic crisis and the devastation wrought by Hurricanes Gustav and Ike in 2008. The weakness of Cuba's infrastructure also has been cited as an obstacle to its efforts to improve productivity.

Cuba's trade in goods grew substantially in 2011 over the previous year. UNCTAD estimates that Cuba exported $6.3 billion and imported $14.3 billion worth of goods, representing increases of $1.3 and $2.8 billion, respectively, from 2010. The deficit in merchandise was $8 billion in 2011, an increase of $1.5 billion from 2010. The main export items in 2011 were "ores and metals", accounting for $4 billion or 64 per cent of the total, followed by "all food items" and "manufactured goods". As for the destination of Cuba's exports, the European Union was the major buyer of Cuban merchandise, accounting for about 30 per cent of the total. However, China and Canada were the largest importers of Cuban goods, representing 27 and 25 per cent of the total, respectively.[10] The other major destination countries were Venezuela, Spain and the Netherlands, accounting for 5 to 6 per cent of the total for each country.

The main import items in 2011 were "manufactured goods", accounting for $6.7 billion or 47 per cent of the total, followed by "fuels" and "all food items". As for the origins of Cuba's imports, Latin American and the Caribbean countries were the largest suppliers, accounting for one half of the total. Venezuela was the single largest supplier, accounting for 36 per cent, followed by China, Spain, Brazil, Canada and the United States, accounting for 4 to 12 per cent for each country.[9] The Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act of 2000 allows United States exports of agricultural products to Cuba. This measure has made the United States the single largest exporter of agricultural products to Cuba. The data on Cuba's agricultural imports demonstrates that trade with the United States would have increased substantially if the embargo had not been imposed.

The service sector has been the driving force of the Cuban economy, with exports of health, education and tourism services being the major sources of foreign exchange earnings. UNCTAD estimates that Cuba exported $11.6 billion and imported $2.1 billion of services in 2011; the resulting $9.5 billion surplus represented a $1 billion increase from 2010. The category "other services" took the major share of exports, followed by "travel". For "other services", the export of the services of medical personnel to Venezuela is of particular importance as, in return, Cuba receives oil from Venezuela on preferential terms. International tourism has been increasing over the past five years; 2.5 million tourists visited Cuba in 2010.[11] Canadian tourists accounted for 38 per cent of the total international visitors, followed by tourists from Germany, Italy and Spain, in numbers amounting to 4 per cent from each country. Visitors from the United States accounted for just 2 per cent of the total. Although in January 2011, the United States Administration allowed more licensing of travel to Cuba for educational, cultural, religious, and journalistic activities, the ban on the travel of United States citizens to Cuba has had serious economic implications for the country. It has been estimated that the losses incurred by the Cuban tourism industry attributable to the measure amounted to $1,668 million in 2010.[12] With regard to the import of services, "transport" was the dominant category. Remittances from relatives living abroad are also a significant source of hard currency and amount to more than $1 billion annually.[13] The United States relaxed remittance restrictions in January 2011, and remittances from the country are becoming increasingly important to the lives of Cuban citizens.

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[9] The Economist Intelligence Unit "Country report: Cuba", April 2012, p. 14.

[10] Figures based on UNCTAD secretariat calculations for 2010.

[11] Available from the website of the Caribbean Tourism Organization (www.onecaribbean.org).

Developments in the United States

Since the relaxation of some restrictions on travel and remittances in January 2011, no new actions have been taken regarding the embargo. There were legislative proposals to ease or lift the embargo, and conversely to roll back the easing of the travel and remittance restrictions, but none of these have become law. Meanwhile, there have been some subtle indications of the United States Administration's interest in increased official cooperation with Cuba in areas of mutual interest like anti-narcotics operations.[14]

Conclusion

Since the previous reporting period there has been no significant change in the United States embargo. The embargo remains intact and is severely constraining the development of Cuba and the improvement of the living standards of its citizens. Although close and broadening South-South cooperation for trade and investment helps Cuba face the challenges of the United States embargo, the country still endures tremendous economic and social hardship. The substantial losses incurred as a result of the embargo include the opportunities missed to strengthen the country's infrastructure, build an efficient and vibrant economy, and improve the living standards of Cuban citizens. The inability to conduct exchanges with the United States has profound implications for the country, particularly given Cuba's potential for developing knowledge-intensive and high-value industries. Furthermore, the embargo's extraterritorial reach penalizes firms and people in third countries. Finally, the embargo continues to deprive United States citizens of the substantial economic, scientific, and cultural opportunities that would potentially result from having normal relations with Cuba.

Details of Cuba's merchandise exports and imports during the period 2007-2011 are given in table 1; table 2 provides a breakdown of agricultural imports by Cuba in 2010 by major supplier; table 3 shows inward flows of foreign investments in 2009 and 2010; and details of the import and export of services by Cuba during the period 2007-2011 are given in table 4.

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[12] See A/66/114, p. 42.

[13] Mark P. Sullivan, "Cuba: issues for the 112th Congress", Congressional Research Service Report for Congress, 24 February 2012, p. 15.

[14] The Economist Intelligence Unit "Country report: Cuba", April 2012, p. 11.

Table 1

Merchandise exports and imports by Cuba

(Millions of United States dollars)

Partner	*Commodity group*	*2007*[a]	*2008*[a]	*2009*[a]	*2010*[a]	*2011*[a]
Exports						
European Union (27 States)	All food items	405	344	333	396	557
	Ores and metal	509	540	445	892	1 174
	Fuels	2	0	5	3	16
	Manufactured goods	18	11	26	39	66
Total		**934**	**895**	**809**	**1 330**	**1 813**
Latin America and the Caribbean	All food items	3	5	18	39	38
	Ores and metal	0	1	13	25	31
	Fuels	2	0	30	50	71
	Manufactured goods	224	272	346	401	502
Total		**229**	**278**	**407**	**515**	**642**
United States	All food items	–	–	–	–	–
	Ores and metal	–	–	–	–	–
	Fuels	–	–	–	–	–
	Manufactured goods	–	–	–	–	–
Total		–	–	–	–	–
Rest of the world	All food items	815	740	476	690	917
	Ores and metal	1 784	2 019	1 366	2 369	2 843
	Fuels	200	28	23	25	38
	Manufactured goods	15	10	28	35	49
Total		**2 814**	**2 797**	**1 893**	**3 119**	**3 847**
World	All food items	1 224	1 090	827	1 125	1 511
	Ores and metal	2 294	2 561	1 824	3 287	4 048
	Fuels	205	29	58	78	124
	Manufactured goods	257	293	399	476	617
Total		**3 980**	**3 973**	**3 108**	**4 966**	**6 300**
Imports						
European Union (27 States)	All food items	188	452	283	405	567
	Ores and metal	32	62	33	36	55
	Fuels	1	44	22	32	82
	Manufactured goods	2 035	2 862	1 812	1 929	2 475
Total		**2 256**	**3 420**	**2 150**	**2 402**	**3 179**

Partner	Commodity group	2007[a]	2008[a]	2009[a]	2010[a]	2011[a]
Latin America and the Caribbean	All food items	683	700	388	578	702
	Ores and metal	17	49	29	58	20
	Fuels	3 225	4 753	2 904	3 971	5 403
	Manufactured goods	879	1 060	728	841	1 002
Total		**4 804**	**6 562**	**4 049**	**5 448**	**7 127**
United States	All food items	608	976	671	448	441
	Ores and metal	–	–	–	–	–
	Fuels	–	–	–	–	–
	Manufactured goods	11	28	18	14	13
Total		**619**	**1 004**	**689**	**462**	**454**
Rest of the world	All food items	230	509	175	202	245
	Ores and metal	14	129	40	70	78
	Fuels	297	13	33	34	45
	Manufactured goods	2 663	3 746	2 484	2 880	3 171
Total		**3 204**	**4 397**	**2 732**	**3 186**	**3 539**
World	All food items	1 708	2 636	1 517	1 634	1 955
	Ores and metal	63	242	102	163	153
	Fuels	3 523	4 811	2 959	4 038	5 530
	Manufactured goods	5 587	7 696	5 042	5 664	6 661
Total		**10 881**	**15 385**	**9 620**	**11 499**	**14 299**

Source: UNCTAD secretariat calculations, based on the United Nations Commodity Trade Statistics Database and the International Monetary Fund Direction of Trade Statistics databases.

Notes: All food items (United Nations Statistics Division Standard International Trade Classification, codes 0+1+22+4)

Ores and metal (Standard International Trade Classification, codes 27+28+68)

Fuels (Standard International Trade Classification, code 3)

Manufactured goods (Standard International Trade Classification, codes 5-8 less codes 667 and 68).

[a] Estimates.

Table 2

Agricultural imports by Cuba by major supplier in 2010

(Millions of United States dollars)

United States	Brazil	European Union	Canada	Argentina	New Zealand	Chile	China	World
359	289	242	103	68	36	27	15	1 280

Source: United Nations Commodity Trade Statistics Database.

Table 3
Direct inward flows of foreign investments

(Millions of United States dollars)

	2009	*2010*
Cuba	24	86
Costa Rica	1 347	1 413
Dominican Republic	2 165	1 626

Source: UNCTAD GLOBSTAT.

Table 4
Service exports and imports by Cuba

(Millions of United States dollars)

Flow	*Service category*	*2007*[a]	*2008*[a]	*2009*[a]	*2010*[a]	*2011*[a]
Exports	Transport	1 509	1 620	1 425	1 816	2 074
	Travel	2 141	2 258	2 051	2 187	2 267
	Other services	4 938	5 374	4 908	6 430	7 320
Total		**8 588**	**9 252**	**8 384**	**10 433**	**11 661**
Imports	Transport	1 097	1 557	1 005	1 164	1 450
	Travel	70	160	212	188	210
	Other services	163	373	496	438	489
Total		**1 330**	**2 090**	**1 713**	**1 790**	**2 149**

Source: UNCTAD and WTO (estimates).

[a] Estimates.

United Nations Development Programme

[Original: English]
[28 June 2012]

Cuban context

Cuba has maintained a high human development ranking, having attained 51st place among 187 nations and 11th place among developing countries in 2011. In terms of Millennium Development Goal accomplishment, Cuba is a developing country with many of the Millennium Development Goals achieved long before these goals were agreed to in an international forum. The main challenges in the Cuban case relate to the quality and the sustainability of what has been already achieved.

The Cuban development model is presently changing, however. The document called "Lineamientos de la política económica y social" (Social and Economic Policy Guidelines) was approved during the Congress of the Communist Party in April 2011, and is now the basis for the reform. The guidelines are innovative in the national context and represent a challenge for the country for the following reasons:

the economy needs structural changes; local-level entities, mainly the local governments, have an important role in the forthcoming decentralization framework process; and economic and financial instruments are in the process of being adjusted. One must note, however, that universal social services and social development remain a priority and will continue to be a concern of the State while the traditional social protection network is adjusted to ensure a more effective focus as well as sustainability.

In this context, some of the national priorities are: to reduce the high level of imports, mainly food; to increase agricultural production in a short time; to introduce new economic incentives, to change the present normative system and introduce flexibilities in the labour market; and to pay special attention to the impact of the demographic indicators (the segment of people older than 60 years represents almost 20 per cent of the overall population).

One of the guidelines calls for the promotion of multilateral collaboration, with direct reference to the institutions of the United Nations system. In this context, the United Nations system is supporting national authorities in addressing emerging issues and challenges.

The UNDP partnership with Cuban authorities is based on long-standing relationships. UNDP has supported major local and national development strategies and policies for the last 40 years. UNDP cooperation with Cuba is inscribed in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (2008-2013) and the UNDP country programme document on Cuba. The priorities therein have remained aligned with the ongoing national updating process. Overall, the emphasis is placed on strengthening national and local capacities to support sustainable human development in Cuba.

In the context of the current reform process, UNDP has been extending its cooperation in the following priority areas: promoting food security, supporting the local governments and their economic development strategies; introducing and applying measures to adapt to climate change, mainly in food production; contributing to a sustainable development and more effective risk prevention; and supporting the national response to HIV/AIDS.

In addition, the formulation of the new United Nations Development Assistance Framework (2014-2018), to be aligned to the needs and priorities of the current national development strategies, is under way.

Specific effects of the United States embargo

The situation in 2011 remained very similar to previous years. The embargo affects the external economic relations of Cuba, and its impact can be observed in all of the country's social and economic activities. It affects opportunities for national and local development and creates economic hardship for the population. The embargo affects the population's most vulnerable groups and human development in general.

According to estimates by Cuban authorities, the cumulative direct and indirect losses to the Cuban economy due to the embargo from the early 1960s until December 2010, amount to $104 billion.[6]

The embargo has limited Cuba's access to development credits granted by international financial institutions such as the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank, which has narrowed the possibility of obtaining resources to provide financial support for Cuba's national and/or local development plans.

The travel of Cuban experts and researchers to the United States within the framework of cooperation agreements, has been limited owing to the process to obtain visas. It has also been difficult to establish partnerships and to collaborate with United States universities and research institutions, and to promote exchanges among experts from the two countries.

The embargo has had negative consequences for external cooperation initiatives, creating many difficulties for programme and project implementation because of trade restrictions or prohibitions on purchasing inputs from United States companies and their subsidiaries. This situation has a negative impact on access to key inputs and on the final cost of imported project goods and equipment, owing to the associated costs to intermediaries and long-distance transportation.

Products for development projects have to be purchased and imported from more distant places at a much higher cost. This has had a direct impact on all United Nations Development Programme development projects and emergency activities, both by increasing the transaction costs of obtaining project inputs and by increasing transportation costs of the imported goods. Projects have been affected by significant delays in the purchase and distribution of project inputs, which has had a negative impact on the timely implementation of project activities and on results. This has been the case with all projects related to food security where the time necessary to gain access to and to import agricultural inputs, such as irrigation systems, machinery and agricultural tools, has been long and complex. Procurement processes have been lengthy, which has delayed project activities and their results. As a consequence, financial proposals and new projects must incorporate extended periods of time for the procurement process and allocate additional donor funds to cover increased costs, which would otherwise be used to cover development activities.

The projects financed by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, for which UNDP serves as the principal recipient, provides medicines, reagents, and laboratory equipment to benefit 13,169 people of all ages living with HIV/AIDS. They are purchased from third countries and from secondary suppliers at prices significantly higher than those on the international markets. Even with UNDP long-term corporate agreements with international suppliers, the embargo restrictions hinder purchases made through this mechanism when the products are manufactured or have a component manufactured in the United States. In those cases, the providers have to obtain a licence from the United States Office of Foreign Assets Control to deliver products or services to projects in Cuba, a bureaucratic process that is lengthy and requires repeated effort. Examples of the above are the requests that had to be made by providers during the first semester of 2012 in order to obtain a licence for Ritonavir and Lopinavir 80 mg/Ritonavir 20 mg for the treatment of more than 500 adults and 26 children in Cuba, who, in the case of a disruption in stocks because of access restrictions, risk losing therapy and having their lives jeopardized.

The embargo also affects the day-to-day work of the UNDP office in Cuba and places it at a disadvantage compared with other country offices. There are limitations to the benefits that would be derived from corporate long-term agreements to effectively implement and monitor the impact and the implementation of development and emergency activities. This increases transaction costs by at least 15 per cent owing to the participation of intermediaries and higher costs for equipment and services, such as computers and access to software licences and to Internet services.

The UNDP local office in Cuba is affected by not being able to use corporate accounts with United States banks or the United States dollar as a currency of payment. This office has to take additional administrative measures to carry out programme finance operations, which results in higher costs for projects and a higher administrative burden that is entailed by the use of third-country banks. The related increased costs have been covered by UNDP and project funds from other donors, which has affected the allocation of resources that would otherwise have been used in development activities.

Another way in which UNDP is affected by the embargo is that national staff required to travel to UNDP headquarters in New York have to request their visas well in advance. There have been several cases in which visas could not be granted in time and travel plans had to be changed or cancelled. Similar situations have occurred when Government officials have had to attend meetings at UNDP headquarters. Furthermore, longer, costlier alternative air routes, via third countries, need to be booked owing to the lack of direct flights from Cuba to New York. This hinders the participation and representation of Cuba's UNDP staff in corporate training and official meetings and thereby limits the capacities of the office to follow up on the latest systems, policies and guidance implemented in other countries to effectively reach development and emergency goals and impacts. Cuban authorities and experts required to travel to United Nations and other meetings are also affected negatively, in terms of the cost of obtaining a United States visa.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

[Original: English]
[8 June 2012]

In response to the request for information on relevant developments since 2011 and how the embargo affects the ability of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to work with and for the Cuban people, UNESCO points out that it is not a funding agency, but rather a specialized technical agency within the United Nations system and that it is difficult, therefore, to quantify the damage of the embargo on programmes run by the Organization within its fields of competence — education, science, culture and communication and information. However, from the qualitative point of view, the embargo continues to have an impact in the fields of competence of UNESCO and the following observations can be made.

The situation has remained relatively unchanged since 2011. In the area of education, the embargo continues to have an impact on the availability of educational resources, which is linked to trade restrictions that prevent their purchase at more competitive prices. In the area of science, the embargo continues to limit the ability to purchase up-to-date scientific materials. In the area of culture, the embargo continues to have an impact on the ability to obtain historic preservation materials, supplies for cultural industries and cooperation with American institutions that might otherwise collaborate, including exchanges. In the area of communications and information, Cuba remains unable to acquire underwater fibre-optic cables from United States firms, software licences and certain equipment. Although there is some more possibility for academic and cultural exchanges, these continue to be limited by visa policies that make travel and study movements difficult.

The embargo also affects the operations of the UNESCO office in Havana, including bank transfers to service providers, resulting in additional costs for the organization, including for air tickets and communications. Staff and their families are also affected personally, for example, with bank transfers and international communications.

United Nations Environment Programme

[Original: English]
[4 June 2012]

From the environmental perspective, the embargo imposed by the United States affects not only Cuba but also the Caribbean subregion and the United States itself.

Conservation efforts in the Caribbean Islands Hotspot[15] are fragmented, incomplete, and lack the necessary common strategy since Cuba is excluded from several of the most important United States-funded projects in the subregion. For example, Cuba cannot participate in Global Environment Facility projects such as the Caribbean Challenge Initiative, a large-scale initiative to protect 20 per cent of the marine and coastal habitats of Caribbean countries by 2020. The exclusion of Cuba from the projects not only deprives it of many benefits but also affects the transboundary approach to ecosystem management in the Caribbean.

The embargo also significantly affects the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems, such as migratory birds and marine life, shared by Cuba and the United States. Lifting the embargo would allow for common conservation strategies and agreements between the Governments. The current environmental agreement between the United States, Mexico and Canada on migratory birds could be extended to include Cuba as it is within the route of the migration.

Much of the work of UNEP is also carried out through South-South cooperation that involves training, knowledge transfer, capacity-building and technical support between Cuba and other countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. UNEP projects in Cuba, such as the Caribbean Biological Corridor, implemented through an agreement between Cuba, Haiti and the Dominican Republic, with Jamaica as a permanent observer, are being affected by the embargo. The impact of the embargo on this project is demonstrated in the context of the hampered efforts to harmonize remote-sensing and spatial data-gathering for the Caribbean Biological Corridor, where Cuba has no access to the required technology and equipment.

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[15] The Caribbean Islands Hotspot consists mainly of three large groups, the Bahamas, the Lesser Antilles, and the Greater Antilles (Puerto Rico, Jamaica, Cuba, and Hispaniola, which includes the Dominican Republic and Haiti), with Cuba, Jamaica and Hispaniola constituting 90 per cent of the land area.

The continuing embargo on Cuba translates into missed opportunities for regional environmental cooperation to provide sustainable and equitable delivery of critical ecosystem services in the Caribbean region.

Other examples of the impact of the embargo are outlined below:

(a) As United States companies are not allowed to sell equipment, technology, and other essential products to Cuban companies, the Cubans are forced to buy them in other markets, increasing cargo travel times to Cuba and consequently increasing carbon emissions associated with transport;

(b) Cuba continues to increase energy efficiency, under its energy revolution programme, and to promote recycling and other green technologies. The aim is to decrease oil consumption and carbon dioxide emissions and to achieve general resource efficiency. However, technologies that could enhance these efforts are not allowed to be sold to Cuba by United States companies or their subsidiaries in other countries. The same applies for other products of non-United States companies that contain parts or components provided by United States companies or subsidiaries that could facilitate progress in this area;

(c) Cuba is one of the world's leaders in biological research, with thousands of graduates from the country's 10 universities and institutes devoted to working in ecology, producing important technologies and products, including biotechnology applications. Cuba also possesses significant knowledge in natural resources conservation. However, these technologies or products are not allowed to be sold in the United States;

(d) The participation of Cuban experts in environmental and sustainable development conferences and training activities is often hampered by travel restrictions and thousands of dollars are spent for more expensive and often longer routes for travel;

(e) The embargo restricts Cuba's access to information from leading scientific and technical journals and publications, as well as Internet access to specialized companies and institutions in the United States. This limits access by Cuban academics, engineers and students to cutting-edge developments in energy and environmental sciences that could increase their capacity to implement sound environmental technologies. Connectivity restrictions also limit Cuba's ability to implement and comply with certain environmental treaties that require the constant use of the Internet;

(f) Both the United States and Cuba have an interest in oil exploration and exploitation in shared marine areas. Joint environmental impact studies and environmentally friendly methods of operation are currently not possible because of the embargo. The 2010 oil spill underlines this issue as a matter of urgency;

(g) Both countries are located in regions with critical biological corridors that could benefit from full regional cooperation;

(h) The United States and Cuba are located in a region where disasters, particularly hurricanes, are seriously affecting ecosystems and populations. Both countries are working to attain higher levels of disaster-prevention and preparation. In this sense, cooperation would benefit both countries, as well as other countries of the wider Caribbean area;

(i) Cuba has been recognized under various criteria as a country that has given high priority to environmental and sustainable development. The most recent version of the Environmental Performance Index established by Yale and Columbia Universities placed Cuba ninth in the world. Despite Cuba's achievements in sustainable environmental management, the United States has always opposed Cuban projects in the Global Environment Facility Council;

(j) Limited access to loans from international financial institutions affects Cuba's ability to move towards sustainability. This has led to Cuba's general claims that the embargo has hampered its sustainability efforts.

The lifting of the embargo would contribute to tackling environmental challenges — sustainable management of shared ecosystems, cooperation between scientific and academic communities and the increased contribution of both countries to sustainable environmental governance, ecosystem management, natural disasters and conflicts and in the fight against climate change.

Ending the embargo imposed by the United States against Cuba will enhance Caribbean region cooperation in efforts to address environmental challenges and assist UNEP in providing leadership in promoting the intelligent use of the planet's natural assets for sustainable development.

United Nations Human Settlements Programme

[Original: English]
[27 April 2012]

The mandate of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) is to coordinate the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and to assist member States in achieving the Millennium Development Goals related to human settlements. The United States economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba limits free trade and the transfer of scientific and technological know-how and expertise for peaceful and humanitarian purposes, and thus has a negative impact on goods, services and technologies related to human settlements. The embargo, in this way, negatively affects the ability of the Government of Cuba to implement the Habitat Agenda and attain the Millennium Development Goals related to human settlements.

UN-Habitat wishes to make two observations related to its mandate and the effectiveness of its activities in Cuba. The first relates to the implementation of General Assembly resolution 66/6, the long-term objectives of which are:

(a) A stable and speedy import of construction materials, tools and equipment (technology), as well as energy and raw materials for the construction and maintenance of human settlements, and for their reconstruction after natural disasters;

(b) The transfer of more efficient and ecologically sound technologies and the use of patents originating from the Unites States, or commercialized by United States companies and other companies around the world;

(c) Access to energy, energy-saving technologies and oil, which are also important assets in the provision of basic urban services, such as transport, solid waste collection and disposal, water supply and sanitation, and emergency response to hazards, including fires, floods and hurricanes, so that Cubans can use efficient and environmentally sustainable alternatives;

(d) Access to low-cost chemicals and equipment for water and wastewater treatment, needed to improve the quality and affordability of these services and, in turn, their impact on environmental and public health;

(e) Settling of outstanding claims on properties previously owned by United States citizens or naturalized Cuban citizens, which will improve the use and rehabilitation of important facilities and the rationality and coherence of urban and real estate development; and

(f) Granting of visa and travel permits needed for scientific, technical and cultural exchanges, particularly for planners, architects, engineers and social scientists, for the purpose of advising their Cuban counterparts in the design, planning and management of housing and human settlements.

In essence, from the human settlements perspective, the implementation of resolution 66/6 will not only improve the quality of social, economic and environmental human settlements planning and management in general, but will also, in particular, promote important improvements in the human settlements conditions of the poor and disadvantaged segments of the Cuban population.

The second observation relates to UN-Habitat's latest activities in Cuba and plans for the near future, both of which stand to benefit from the implementation of resolution 66/6:

(a) During the reporting period, UN-Habitat has been collaborating with its counterparts, the Cuban National Housing Institute and the Physical Planning Institute, in developing cooperation projects and promoting the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, while at the same time supporting Cuba's contribution to South-South cooperation;

(b) UN-Habitat established its first country programme 2011-2013 in Cuba. The programme has three main areas of work: urban governance and climate change; urban infrastructure, basic services, and the environment; and support for the housing sector;

(c) UN-Habitat is implementing a Cuba-Colombia South-South cooperation project to improve citizen participation and capacities in adapting to climate change and foster risk-reduction processes. The project will support the development and implementation of community initiatives in connection with climate change impacts and disaster-risk reduction. Eight municipalities of Cuba will be directly involved, in close relationships with four Colombian municipalities. In this project, UN-Habitat is collaborating with the Ministry of Foreign Commerce and Foreign Investment, the National Housing Institute, the Physical Planning Institute and the Agenda 21 offices in selected municipalities;

(d) Following hurricanes Gustave and Ike, UN-Habitat has been participating actively in the reconstruction process through its project to promote the systematization of the housing restoration experience in three provinces in Cuba;

(e) UN-Habitat awarded the 2011 Habitat Scroll of Honour Award to Cuba's Centro de Investigación y Desarrollo de Estructuras y Materiales for blazing a new trail in low-cost, low-energy, eco-friendly building materials. Tens of thousands of affordable, environmentally friendly homes have been built using the centre's system for providing flooring, roofing, tiles, and walls made of local materials produced with low energy. The centre has also helped create new job opportunities.

United Nations Industrial Development Organization

[Original: English]
[23 May 2012]

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) currently has one ongoing integrated programme in Cuba, which assists the Government of Cuba in further strengthening its industrial capabilities and competitiveness in priority industrial sectors, in line with the new political, economic and social strategies announced in 2011.

UNIDO activities in Cuba have been concentrated mainly in the following areas:

- Promotion of renewable energy
- Support for the fulfilment of international environmental agreements (mainly the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer)
- Support in strengthening agro-industrial value chains
- Promoting capacity-building in entrepreneurship
- Strengthening South-South cooperation in areas related to industrial development.

Concrete examples of recent UNIDO activities in Cuba include:

- Introduction of renewable energy business models through pilot applications (biomass gasifier models for power and heat-generation, biomass fuel-production and wind farm model)
- Improved solid waste management through enhanced landfills, adequate laboratory infrastructure, use of biogas for generating electricity, and training of Government staff
- Elimination of methyl bromide used for substrates in coffee nurseries and for fumigating stored grains and industrial milling facilities, achieved through the use of alternative techniques and products
- Contribution to food security through increases in the productivity of small dairy and vegetable farms
- Pilot plants for the solar drying of fruits, vegetables and herbs
- Training of experts and managers in the use of enterprise management tools
- Training in the design of feasibility studies for renewable energy projects

Currently, UNIDO is participating in the ongoing UNDAF 2013-2017 exercise in Cuba. Cuba is also included in the global knowledge-management system for private sector development, financed by the Millennium Development Goal Achievement Fund which aims to enhance the United Nations system's knowledge capabilities for delivering policy advice, institutional capacity-building and pilot projects.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

[Original: English]
[31 May 2012]

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) notes that, while the embargo remains in place, the Caribbean region continues to be confronted with a number of serious challenges related to the trafficking of illicit drugs and organized crime. Together with other Caribbean countries, Cuba finds itself between the world's largest cocaine producers in Latin America and the world's largest drug consumers, namely, North America and Europe.

UNODC is in the process of strengthening its presence in the Caribbean in order to support member States in their efforts to counter these challenges. Furthermore, a regional transnational organized crime threat assessment for Central America and the Caribbean is being currently undertaken and will be published in July 2012, providing a better picture of illicit flows in the Caribbean and laying the foundations for better coordinated national responses.

In addition, UNODC is setting up an interregional coordination mechanism, the Santo Domingo Pact and SICA (Central American Integration System)-UNODC Mechanism, and developing specific regional programmes for Central America and the Caribbean that include national components in the form of activities tailored to provide national governments with the support necessary for addressing country-specific problems.

Cuba is a State party to the United Nations Convention against Corruption and is currently engaged in the review mechanism. This mechanism was established to assess the actual implementation of the Convention by States parties and to help to facilitate the provision of technical assistance when appropriate and requested. Cuba is currently under review by Brazil and Guatemala and, in line with the rules set in the Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention, it will also play an essential role as a reviewer of Nicaragua in the upcoming cycles.

Cuba has highlighted its determination and efforts in countering drug trafficking. It has cooperated effectively with UNODC in the areas of its mandates and its contribution has always been viewed positively.

According to the 2011 report of the International Narcotics Control Board, Cuba created in 2011 the Technical Investigation Police, a new law enforcement and drug control body responsible for preventing and reducing the impact of international drug trafficking and its manifestations at the national level. The INCB report noted that Cuba continued to cooperate with intelligence services from other countries and with INTERPOL on the basis of the multilateral treaties to which it was a party, and that Cuban authorities had seized a total of 2,894 kg of cannabis and eradicated 9,451 cannabis plants in 2010. In the first six months of 2011, Cuban authorities seized 5,256 kg of cannabis and eradicated 5,822 cannabis plants.[16]

UNODC launched last year the Centre of Excellence on Prison Reform and Drug Demand Reduction in the Dominican Republic, which offers training and technical assistance for countries of the region, including Cuba. The Centre will continue to promote activities in the region, such as the high-level expert group meeting held in August 2011, which served to identify best practices in the implementation of the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. Cuba will also be able to benefit from such integrated regional initiatives.

Upon the invitation of the Government of Cuba, a UNODC representative visited Havana from 9 to 11 November 2011 to attend the fifth international meeting on the challenges of corruption to societies. The invitation offered the opportunity for continuing the dialogue on possible assistance by UNODC to Cuba, as well as on the possible contributions by Cuba to initiatives UNODC is implementing in the Caribbean and in the Central American region.

In line with the Ministerial Conference on Illicit Drug Trafficking, Transnational Organized Crime and Terrorism as Challenges for Security and Development in the Caribbean, held in Santo Domingo in February 2009, UNODC is developing a regional programme for the Caribbean with a sharp focus on addressing regional and country-level needs for countering illicit drug trafficking and its negative impact on the societies. The future implementation of the aforementioned programme by the UNODC Regional Programme Office for Central America and the Caribbean which is located in Panama and also covers Cuba, is the most appropriate approach for structured assistance in view of the interconnectedness of problems faced by Caribbean countries, the strong transnational dimension of crime, mostly drug trafficking, in this subregion, and the existence of an already well-established regional framework of cooperation in the field of justice and security, comprising the Caribbean Community, its Implementation Agency for Crime and Security, and the Organization for Eastern Caribbean States.

In the context of CARIFORUM (Forum of the Caribbean Group of African, Caribbean and Pacific States), UNODC is currently engaged in the development of regional initiatives to include Cuba, particularly in the field of crime prevention, building capacities to investigate and prosecute organized crime in the region, for drug demand-reduction and for law enforcement. Fundraising is now under way and UNODC hopes to rely on the support of Member States in this endeavour.

The inclusion of Cuba in the various UNODC initiatives for the Caribbean will strengthen the country's cooperation with its regional counterparts. Moreover, efforts should be made to ensure the development of a regional operational approach to address transnational organized crime and facilitate cooperation among all Caribbean Member States. Cuba is a State party to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition. UNODC encourages Cuba to consider ratifying and implementing the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air. UNODC operations in the Caribbean, including in Cuba, should be further expanded and the Office should continue to proactively seek funds to support its many activities.

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[16] *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2011* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.12.XI.5), paras. 394 and 403.

United Nations Population Fund

[Original: English]
[7 June 2012]

Restrictions against travel by Cubans to the United States were eased in 2011. Cuban academics, scientists and economists now frequently attend seminars in the United States and Cuban artists and entertainers are also finding it easier to visit the United States.

However, the embargo continues to be monitored through the tightening of controls related to international financial transactions, including payments and the transfer of funds to United Nations agencies and other international organizations. In addition, Cuba is not allowed to hold bank accounts in United States dollars in third countries or to access credits from United States banks, including their subsidiaries in third countries, and from international institutions like the World Bank or the Inter-American Development Bank.

In 2012, there was continued international interest in Cuba, which was heightened by the visit in January of the President of Brazil, Dilma Rousseff, aimed at fostering Brazilian investments in Cuba; and the visit in March of Pope Benedict XVI, who expressed concern about the "restrictive economic measures imposed from outside" on Cuba. At the same time, some United States Congress spokespersons suggested strengthening the United States embargo against Cuba by prohibiting access to public funds by companies doing business with Cuba.

In this context, the UNFPA country programme has continued to face challenges in procuring commodities, including sexual and reproductive health commodities, equipment, medicines and laboratory materials, which has affected the programme, especially since almost all merchandise and commodities for projects have to be imported. In addition, the procurement of goods and services on external and open markets has been more expensive. In many cases, providers requested payment through external bank transfers owing to the lack of bank liquidity in the country. This cumbersome process has provoked delays in payment processes especially when bank data from Cuba appears in the transaction.

UNFPA is one of the few agencies in Cuba to support sexual and reproductive health, population and development, and gender programming. UNFPA will continue to support Cuba's efforts to maintain its achievements in sexual and reproductive health, including maternal health and access to family planning methods, and sexuality education programmes, despite the challenges. However, the country office faces financial limitations since the embargo limits the flow of international sources of assistance to Cuba and the effective use of resources in the country programme.

Universal Postal Union

[Original: English]
[1 June 2012]

As a specialized agency, the Universal Postal Union (UPU) is not directly involved in implementing General Assembly resolution 66/6, which directly affects only Member States.

UPU has always regarded Cuba as a fully fledged member of the Union. As such, Cuba enjoys the same rights and obligations as other UPU members. Recently, Cuba participated in training and e-learning activities and took part in a regional round table on postal strategy and a working group on money orders. UPU is also providing Cuba with technical assistance in the field of postal reform.

Moreover, Cuba plays an active role in the activities of UPU and its bodies. For example, Cuba was elected as a member of both the UPU Council of Administration and the Postal Operations Council in 2008 and serves on a number of the Council's committees and working groups.

World Food Programme

[Original: English]
[16 June 2012]

The United States embargo has had some impact on Cuba's logistics infrastructure, its agricultural production and its food-processing capacity, which, as a result, factors into the country's reliance upon imported food to cover as much as 70 per cent of the domestic food-consumption requirements. The embargo also increases the World Food Programme's transportation costs, because vessels carrying goods intended for Cuba usually must make a stopover in a neighbouring country for trans-shipment. In addition, ships calling on Cuban ports cannot call on United States ports for 120 days thereafter.

World Health Organization/Pan American Health Organization

[Original: English/Spanish]
[31 May 2012]

Impact on the population, the health sector, and on individual health

In economic terms, and using data from various Government of Cuba sources, the cumulative cost of the embargo in the health sector was $2,355 million as of May 2012. This cost is due mainly to the need to procure medicines, reagents, spare parts for medical diagnosis and treatment equipment, medical and surgical instruments and other supplies from distant markets and often through intermediaries, which increases the cost even further. In the health sector, the consequences of the embargo have a negative multiplier effect on the cost of basic everyday health products, on the difficulties in acquiring health products, on the availability of basic social services, and, therefore, on the overall living conditions of the population.

The limitations imposed by the embargo have only worsened with the global economic crisis, which does not exclude Cuba

Public health is jeopardized by the lack of investments in infrastructure (housing, roads, water and sanitation). More directly, public health is affected by the lack of necessary resources to address epidemiological threats.

The embargo also stunts public health development in Cuba by preventing Cuba's access to loans and donations from international financial institutions such as the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank, and by limiting the country's access to philanthropic contributions and donations from United States civil society. Owing to the embargo, the country procures its goods through subsidiary companies, which inflate the costs and it is sometimes unable to obtain specific products and must purchase substitutes instead. This compromises the quality of care and hence the quality of health in Cuba. The complexity of the impact makes it difficult to calculate its precise magnitude and monetary cost.

The embargo affects the individual health care of people of all ages and of both sexes through its impact on Cuba's unified health system institutions, its research facilities, its epidemiological surveillance institutions, and its disease control agencies.

Research

The embargo continues to limit scientific exchange, despite the recognized advances in innovation and science in the country. The country does not have access to underwater fibre-optic cables, which limits connectivity and increases costs. This also limits Cuban participation in virtual forums, in scientific communities, in relevant research events, and in the access to public software. The Cuban scientific community is also placed at a disadvantage by the limited opportunities it has to obtain grants and scholarships from the United States for advanced studies and training and the development of research projects.

Owing to the embargo, Cuban professional associations find it difficult to pay dues to international associations/world federations of health professionals. For example, the Cuban Society of Family Medicine must pay its dues directly whenever its members participate in an organization's events. It cannot make payments to the Ibero-American Confederation of Family Medicine because its treasurer is located in Puerto Rico. The Cuban Surgery Society and the Society of Clinical Pathology have dealt with similar circumstances. The former has had to use various channels to pay its annual dues to the international societies with which it is affiliated, since the funds cannot be sent through bank transfers. This limits the ability of Cuban health professionals to participate on the international stage of a globalized world.

With respect to access to new knowledge, there are constraints on obtaining and/or subscribing to influential North American journals, for example, in orthopaedics and traumatology or in orthodontics and dentofacial orthopaedics. At the same time, Cuban scientific articles cannot be published in those journals. Moreover, the Government of the United States denies visas that would allow Cuban professionals in these fields to attend scientific events there and does not permit scientific exchange with specialists and professors in the specialties.

In 2011 a large delegation of United States pathologists were denied visas to participate in the National Congress of Pathological Anatomy. For its part, the Cuban Society of Urology has been unable to avail itself of the usual payment methods for international conferences and other scientific events. This means that the Cubans have to register on-site at a higher rate than if they had been able to pay months in advance, as do their peers with access to credit cards or other types of accounts.

Health services

Oncology services report difficulties in obtaining cytostatic cyclophosphamide, used in cancer treatment, as well as a flow cytometer, because the manufacturer, Becton, Dickinson and Company, has refused to sell to Cuba.

The Cardiovascular Surgery Service of the Cardiology and Cardiovascular Surgery Institute must purchase mitral and aortic valves for mammary artery clips and cardiac stabilizers and mobilizers from third countries, with the attendant cost increases, if it is to carry out the more than 400 surgical procedures planned for 2012. There are difficulties in purchasing three-dimensional non-fluoroscopic anatomical mapping equipment, which means that patients have to be sent to Italy, driving up the costs with airfares and lodging expenses. Similarly, there are difficulties procuring electrode or wire extraction sets for pacemakers or implantable automatic defibrillators. Without this equipment, surgery using extracorporeal circulation is required to extract the electrodes, which increases the risk to the patient as well as the cost of care.

Much of the equipment and supplies required by the national programme for chronic renal disease, dialysis and renal transplantation, which could be acquired in the United States at more affordable prices, have to be purchased in markets as far away as Germany, Japan, and China, among others, driving up the end cost. For example, Cuba's inability to purchase a gamma topography chamber from General Electric, or high-quality anti-HLA (human leukocyte antigen) reagents from the United States firm One Lambda, has the effect of paralyzing the national transplant programme.

The embargo has affected several of the services provided by the "Hermanos Ameijeiras" Hospital:

(a) The Endocrinology and Assisted Reproduction Service reports shortages in the equipment used for in-vitro fertilization, namely, guides for transvaginal oocyte puncture and gynaecological ultrasound for aspiration of ovarian follicles, with puncture guides. There are also shortages of several reagents and drugs for dynamic tests: dosages of catecholamine in urine and blood to diagnose suprarenal disorders, dosages of aldosterone and ACTH (Adrenocorticotropic Hormone), immunological studies for patients with diabetes (anti-insulin antibodies) and 17-OH dosages for use in the diagnosis of congenital adrenal hyperplasia;

(b) The Intensive Care Unit reports difficulties in maintaining a stable supply of nutrients for enteral and parenteral use and consumables such as enteral nutrition bags, nasojejunal probes, central venous catheters, pacemakers and introducers, flow transducers for ventilation equipment, medicines such as somatostatins, and antibiotics such as meropenem and tigecycline;

(c) The Cardiovascular Surgery Unit reports the need to purchase devices such as stents and pacemakers from distant markets at elevated prices; they cost less and are of a better quality in the nearby United States market. Similarly, bioptomes and sheaths for endomyocardial biopsies, which cannot be purchased from the Cordis Corporation because it is a United States company, must be purchased from other suppliers at much higher prices;

(d) The Diagnostic Imaging Department lacks catheters to perform invasive radiological procedures such as embolization in patients with liver and cerebral tumours;

(e) Surgical services in general are affected because they depend on a stable and less costly supply of appropriate suture materials, especially long-term absorbable ones, as well as medications, expanding solutions or blood substitutes, vascular grafts and cytostatic drugs. There are also difficulties with the procurement of mechanical staplers and endostaplers, which are produced mainly by United States companies and are essential for conventional surgery as well as for advanced laparoscopy. The same is true for purchases of advanced instruments used for hemostasis such as LigaSure Advance, the Harmonic scalpel, the argon beam coagulator, and high-efficiency bipolar electrocoagulators, all of which require numerous components from the United States.

The embargo has affected the Institute of Neurology and Neurosurgery, which is primarily a research centre, especially in the procurement of biologicals used as reagents, and laboratory equipment used for research projects and to support medical treatment by facilitating the diagnosis and monitoring of patients admitted to clinical care areas. One example of this is a laboratory kit produced by the United States company Fujirebio Diagnostics, Inc. Its CanAg NSE EIA kit is used to detect neuron-specific enolase protein in serum and cerebrospinal fluid. This can serve as a diagnostic and prognostic marker in ischemic cerebrovascular diseases, which have high morbidity and mortality rates in Cuba. The Institute has also reported being unable to purchase electromyography equipment from the Canadian firm Excel-Tech, Ltd (XLTEK), since the United States firm Natus Medical, Inc. has acquired stock in that company.

Epileptic patients are also severely affected by shortages of new generation antiepileptic drugs for the treatment of children and adults and the lack of access to neuro-stimulation procedures for untreatable epileptic syndromes not candidates for surgery, electrodes for intracranial recordings, and other technologies necessary for the diagnosis, evaluation, and surgical and non-surgical treatment of epilepsies.

The embargo placed the HIV/AIDS programme at risk after the funds allocated for the priority programme for the fight against AIDS and tuberculosis (more than $4 million), which are transferred from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria to the account of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Global Fund's main recipient, were retained by the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the United States Department of the Treasury. Through numerous efforts on the part of the Global Fund and UNDP, these funds were finally released in late April 2011. This situation jeopardized the continuity of treatment of nearly 700 adults and 15 children living with HIV who were unable to access WHO-prequalified medications such as Ritonavir (for adults and children) and Lopi-Rito (80-20 mg/ml), which is produced by the United States-based Abbott Laboratories. The same was true of certain combinations of antiretrovirals that include Tenofovir which is manufactured by Gilead Sciences, Inc. Dr. Margaret Chan, Director General of WHO contacted the United States Department of the Treasury in order to secure an authorization for the Global Fund to prevent any future blockage of funds for this reason.

Another incident in the area of HIV/AIDS relates to the purchase of reagents for the Human HIV-1 p24 ELISA kit, for diagnosing children of HIV/AIDS-positive mothers. In this case, the intermediary supplier from Canada wrote to report that in processing the request for a supply of reagents for 5 kits, the United States manufacturer, One Lambda, inquired about the final destination of the items and the use to which they would be put. After ascertaining that the final destination was Cuba, the United States company notified them that they would not supply the product.

A group of children who are carriers of retinoblastoma are included in the protocol to preserve vision in the affected eye. This entails multi-drug therapy and ocular brachytherapy with radioactive iodine plaques that use the isotope I-132 encapsulated in radioactive seeds. Cuba has not been able to obtain the radioactive iodine plaques because the United States company 3M has not been granted a licence to market them in Cuba.

The William Soler Paediatric Cardiology Centre reports difficulties or the outright inability to obtain anaesthetics such as Levosimendan and Sevoflurane for use in children. Nutritional formulas for newborns and babies are unavailable, as are trace elements and certain vitamins for parenteral use produced in the United States, and percutaneous gastrostomy sets. Because it still falls under the category of hospitals denied by the United States Government, the Centre has also been unable to procure United States-made Amplatzer Septal Occluders. This means that patients who could be treated with these more advanced devices have to undergo surgery instead. The purchase of guides and catheters for diagnosis and interventions in children, especially newborns and babies, is complicated for similar reasons. In the latter cases, if the required catheter is unavailable, the patient must undergo surgery, which poses a higher risk of complications. The Centre has also been unable to acquire certain medicines manufactured in the United States for the treatment of pulmonary hypertension.

At this time, the Cuban Institute of Oncology and Radiobiology does not have a supplier of radioactive source for brachytherapy for cervical lesions. The company that provided replacements for these sources was bought by Best Medical Equipment. Because of this, a new supplier will have to be found and it may be necessary to substitute the brachytherapy equipment currently available in Cuba, all of which will entail additional expenditure in order to provide continuity of care to these patients.

The country has seven Canadian-made Cobalt-60 units for radiation therapy. The manufacturer, Fabricant Theratronics was sold to MDS Nordion and more recently to Best Medical Equipment. A review is currently under way of the need to apply the licensing system of the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the Department of the Treasury. Should that be the case, it will not be possible to replace the equipment's radioactive sources before their useful life expires, and patient treatment will be affected.

Impact on knowledge management and the technical cooperation of PAHO/WHO

Owing to the embargo, the operations of the PAHO/WHO country office in Cuba incur higher administrative costs than other country offices of the organization. This means that fewer resources are available for the implementation of technical cooperation programmes in the country.

The economic embargo against Cuba has also hampered the ability of PAHO/WHO to acquire office equipment and supplies for its technical cooperation programmes. The PAHO/WHO country office in Cuba is unable to acquire computers and maintenance or other supplies whose procurement is centrally managed by the PAHO Regional Office in the United States. This has made it difficult to maintain the uniformity in the technology used in all of the country offices. Because of this, the country office in Cuba has had to acquire all of its technology and technical services from more distant regions at a significantly higher cost.

Suppliers face increasing restrictions in selling this type of technology to Cuba. Moreover, the country office cannot directly purchase software that PAHO has standardized for the use of its offices. Cuban professionals and technical personnel do not have equal access to information and professional development owing to problems associated with the Internet and the large number of websites that cannot be accessed from Cuba for viewing or downloading information, including free software.

Important examples of websites to which access from Cuba is prohibited include Google developer sites (developers.google.com and code.google.com), which are designed to facilitate the free exchange of information and source codes among developers of all types of software. Attempts to access these sites result in a message that the action is being carried out from a banned country, and all possibility of contact is denied. This is also the case with sourceforge.net, one of the most complete software repositories in existence. Another example is the Nvidia company. This producer of visual graphics and scientific computing technologies has blocked its websites, which are repositories of information and software essential for work in scientific modelling and simulation and visualization in advanced diagnostic imaging systems. In addition, Oracle denies the download of Java and Adobe installation software for Flash Player, which is required technology for using a broad range of Internet services (for example, Elluminate and YouTube) and tools (for example, Greenstone and BigBlueButton).

The embargo has limited scientific advancement by hindering the participation of Cuban professionals in technical and scientific meetings that foster the exchange of knowledge and experiences in order to strengthen national capabilities. It has prevented the inclusion of medicines and vaccines produced in Cuba in research protocols carried out in the United States and it has hindered Cuba's representation in international organizations based in the United States owing to delays or failure in the issuance of the necessary visas.

Finally, the organization calls attention to the embargo's negative impact on public health in general, beyond the population residing in Cuba. Indeed, by excluding Cuba from participation in regional and international activities the embargo affects international progress in knowledge and practice towards improving health of all.

PAHO/WHO has established ties of collaboration with United States-based non-governmental organizations that collect used or discontinued and surplus equipment of consumables (devices and medications) donated by hospitals. These non-governmental organizations meticulously classify, calibrate, and package the material for shipment to some of the countries of the region with the greatest need. Cuba is part of this group of countries because of the restrictions imposed by the embargo that are described here. These efforts are clearly palliative in nature. The real solution to the problem lies in lifting the embargo because of the unfair and inevitable impact it has on the health of the Cuban population and on PAHO/WHO technical cooperation with this Member State.

It should be noted that a significant number of United States citizens have completed their medical training or are in the process of graduating as physicians, as part of the contingent of aspiring medical professionals from many of the countries of the region of the Americas and Africa, who have pursued their studies at the Latin American School of Medicine of Cuba.

In March 2012 Dr. Margaret Chan, Director General of WHO, together with the six WHO Regional Directors, paid an official visit to Cuba and held the regular meeting of the Global Policy Group, the highest-level executive body of the WHO secretariat. The visit included discussions about the economic and social transformations taking place in the country in the context of the recently issued political guidelines, as well as about the major achievements in health, the impact of a rapidly aging population, and the management of this and other challenges, including the effect of the embargo. All of these elements have been included in the analysis to establish a new framework for United Nations development cooperation with the country, which is currently being prepared, and to update the PAHO/WHO cooperation strategy with Cuba.

World Intellectual Property Organization

[Original: English]
[14 May 2012]

As a result of the embargo, the following circumstances have been observed in Cuba as an obstacle to the country's advancement in the field of intellectual property, and directly impact on its technological, social and economic development:

(a) By restricting access of Cuban citizens to the United States, the embargo limits the possibilities of human resources development on American soil. As a result, specialized Cuban professionals may not fully benefit from higher specialization opportunities in the field of intellectual property, available especially in the United States. These include the opportunity to acquire experience with the implementation of technology transfer offices, with technology management, and with intellectual property valuation and collateralization — issues of extreme relevance for the effective use of the intellectual property system;

(b) Visa restrictions also hinder the possibilities for Cuban intellectual property professionals to participate in regular training programmes, meetings and other events organized in the United States by World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO);

(c) Restricted telecommunications infrastructure also hinders the widespread dissemination of WIPO online distance learning courses in Cuba, despite the efforts and commitment of local authorities to foster a nationwide culture of respect for intellectual property. Facilities for videoconferencing — which allow a most efficient and cost-effective means of communication especially for educational and training purposes — are also unavailable, since a major portion of the technical equipment and software tools originate in the United States and may not be acquired;

(d) Poor telecommunications facilities also have a negative impact on and obstruct the access of Cuban nationals to WIPO online databases and other digital services in the field of intellectual property. This situation, in particular, the lack of online access to patent information databases, including Patentscope and others, which are available only through the Internet, is detrimental to the advancement of technological research and other innovation programmes carried out by the Government of Cuba in the fields of environmental, medical and life sciences, bio- and nano-technologies;

(e) The embargo also affects the availability of information technology equipment and software for the performance of administrative operations regarding filing and granting procedures, in particular patent and trademarks search and examination services. Although the country is administratively equipped to perform such functions, thanks to the presence of provincial branches of the Cuban Industrial Property Office, the lack of specialized software critically hinders such performance. External procurement formalities to obtain the required equipment and software are extremely burdensome. This situation continues to cumulatively delay the services that these offices are required to render and prevents the normal growth and expansion of such services. Most importantly, this situation stifles the possibility to take full advantage of the functionalities available under the WIPO Intellectual Property Automated System, since some of the system's operating tools are not freely accessible for users in Cuba. As such, the possibilities of expanding and customizing the system to meet the needs of Cuban users (both in the capital and in the provinces) are seriously compromised;

(f) The extraterritorial effects of the embargo extend to the financial arena as well. Payments from Cuba to WIPO under the WIPO-administered treaties (Patent Cooperation Treaty, Madrid) may only be effected in euros or Swiss francs, not in United States dollars, in order to avoid the restrictions imposed by the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the United States Department of the Treasury. Likewise, payments from WIPO to the Cuban Intellectual Property Office must be made in the same currencies. The costs of these indirect transactions for the purpose of avoiding United States banks amount to considerable financial losses and discourages the use by Cuban nationals of the Patent Cooperation Treaty and Madrid Agreement systems.

World Meteorological Organization

[Original: English]
[15 May 2012]

The World Meteorological Organization (WHO) has provided support to projects and meteorological equipment and instruments and has also co-sponsored meteorological conferences. In this context:

(a) As a member of WMO, Cuba benefits from the global and regional services provided by WMO, receiving publications and other materials of the organization. Cuba takes part in activities of WMO, such as meetings, workshops and courses;

(b) WMO maintains collaborative relations with all Caribbean States, including Cuba, which is a member of Regional Association IV (North America, Central America and the Caribbean), through the WMO Regional Office for the Americas;

(c) Furthermore, Cuba participates in projects covering the Caribbean area, such as the ISDR (International Strategy for Disaster Reduction) Caribbean project, and benefits from them.

World Tourism Organization

[Original: English]
[15 May 2012]

During the period from April 2011 to March 2012, the United States economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba continued to be applied to general activities and included the restriction against travel by United States citizens to Cuba, which directly affected the Cuban tourism sector.

The number of international tourists arriving in the Caribbean subregion increased by 4.2 per cent in 2011. The United States outbound market contributed importantly to this growth, sending over 50 per cent of the tourists to the subregion. This means that 13 million American tourists visited the Caribbean, including the Mexican Caribbean, and only slightly more than 70,000 United States citizens visited Cuba, as a result of the limitations imposed.

If one estimated that around 15 per cent of the United States citizens travelling to the Caribbean in 2011 had travelled to Cuba if there had been no limitations, and if, according to estimates of the Caribbean Tourism Organization, the average expenditure per stay of a United States tourist in the Caribbean was $975, this would imply that a total of 2 million United States tourists would have travelled to Cuba in 2011 and receipts for the Cuban tourism sector would have totalled $1.95 billion.

United States cruising companies are dominant in the Caribbean cruise market and as a consequence of the embargo, none of the 140 cruises operating in the area can call at Cuban ports. Cruise companies estimate that, of the 7 million United States citizens that buy cruises to the Caribbean, around 1 million would visit Cuban ports annually, if they were allowed to. Cuban companies are also prevented from supplying goods and services to those cruises, with an estimated loss of $80 million in potential sales. Additionally, Cuban marinas lose over $12 million in potential business with yachts and sailing boats from the United States. The United States also does not participate in sports sailing competitions organized by Cuban marine clubs.

Embargo measures affecting e-commerce, Internet usage and credit-card transactions for the payment for air tickets and tourist services are affecting tourism operations in Cuba, raising their costs and preventing Cuban-based entities from competing on the same playing field as other destinations in the subregion. Credit-card processing is affecting travel agencies and the charges applied to Cuba-related financial transactions, which are considered high risk, are above average.

Of the four major global distribution systems in the world, Cuban hotels can only use one, Amadeus, as the other three are the American companies Sabre, Galileo and Worldspan. This situation prevents Cuban tourist entities from establishing a flow of business with tourism intermediaries and advertising their products in internationally renowned American web portals, such as Google, Yahoo and MSN.

Another area affected by the embargo is procurement for the tourism sector, especially due to the high costs of the geographical relocation of the suppliers, which imply higher prices, and higher transportation and insurance fees, due to the long distance that needs to be covered by the supplier markets and also the non-mobility of resources to keep large stocks of merchandise. This also implies higher financial costs because of the need to access the more expensive commercial credit, compared to softer State and bank credit, which is difficult to obtain as a consequence of the pressure from the United States Government on third countries and because of the currency exchange rate variations, as the United States dollar cannot be used as the purchasing currency. The total increase in procurement expenses due to the embargo can be estimated at around $30 million.

In all, national and international tourism in Cuba, for the period from April 2011 to March 2012, has been affected by the economic, commercial and financial measures taken under the embargo imposed by the United States Government, with the estimated impact reaching an amount of $2.1 billion.

World Trade Organization

[Original: English]
[24 May 2012]

Although members of the World Trade Organization do not address the implementation of United Nations resolutions in the light of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, there are various World Trade Organization forums and mechanisms where the United States, Cuba and other members can address issues relating to their rights and obligations, including obligations with regard to non-discrimination, prohibition of quotas and the possibility of invoking exceptions to these obligations.

In 2011, as in previous years, this issue was raised in a number of instances, including in the Dispute Settlement Body on 21 April, 24 May, 27 September, 25 October, 18 November and 19 December 2011, and on 20 January 2012. Similarly, this matter was referred to in the General Council meeting of 26 October and 30 November 2011. Finally, it was raised at the Eighth Ministerial Conference of WTO on 16 December 2011.